

China

O U R I S M

KERIYA PEOPLE IN THE TAKLIMAKAN DESERT



IN THE DEPTHS OF LUSHAN MOUNTAIN

Hot Springs at Halun Arxan (Inner Mongolia)
The Splendour and Charm of Henan Folk Dance

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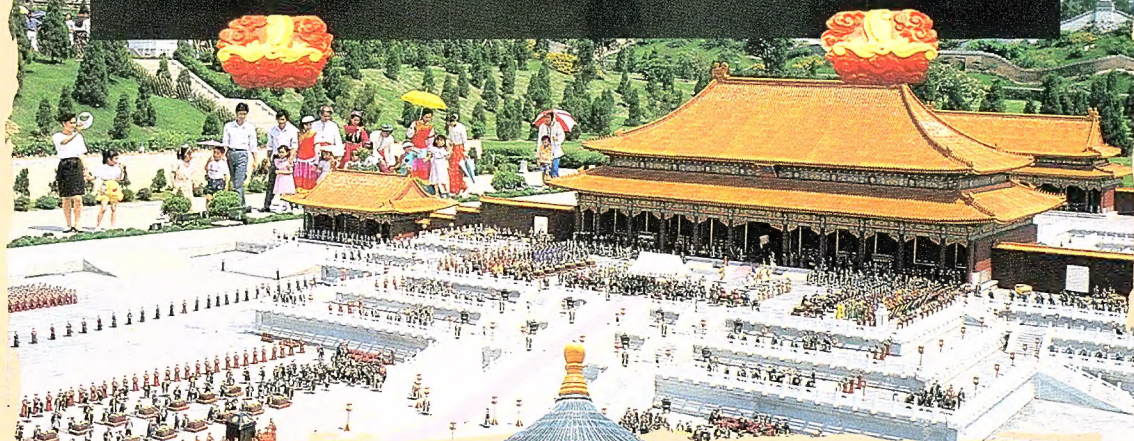
A GLIMPSE AT THE THOUSAND-YEAR-OLD CIVILIZATIONS OF CHINA

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CHINA IN A SINGLE DAY

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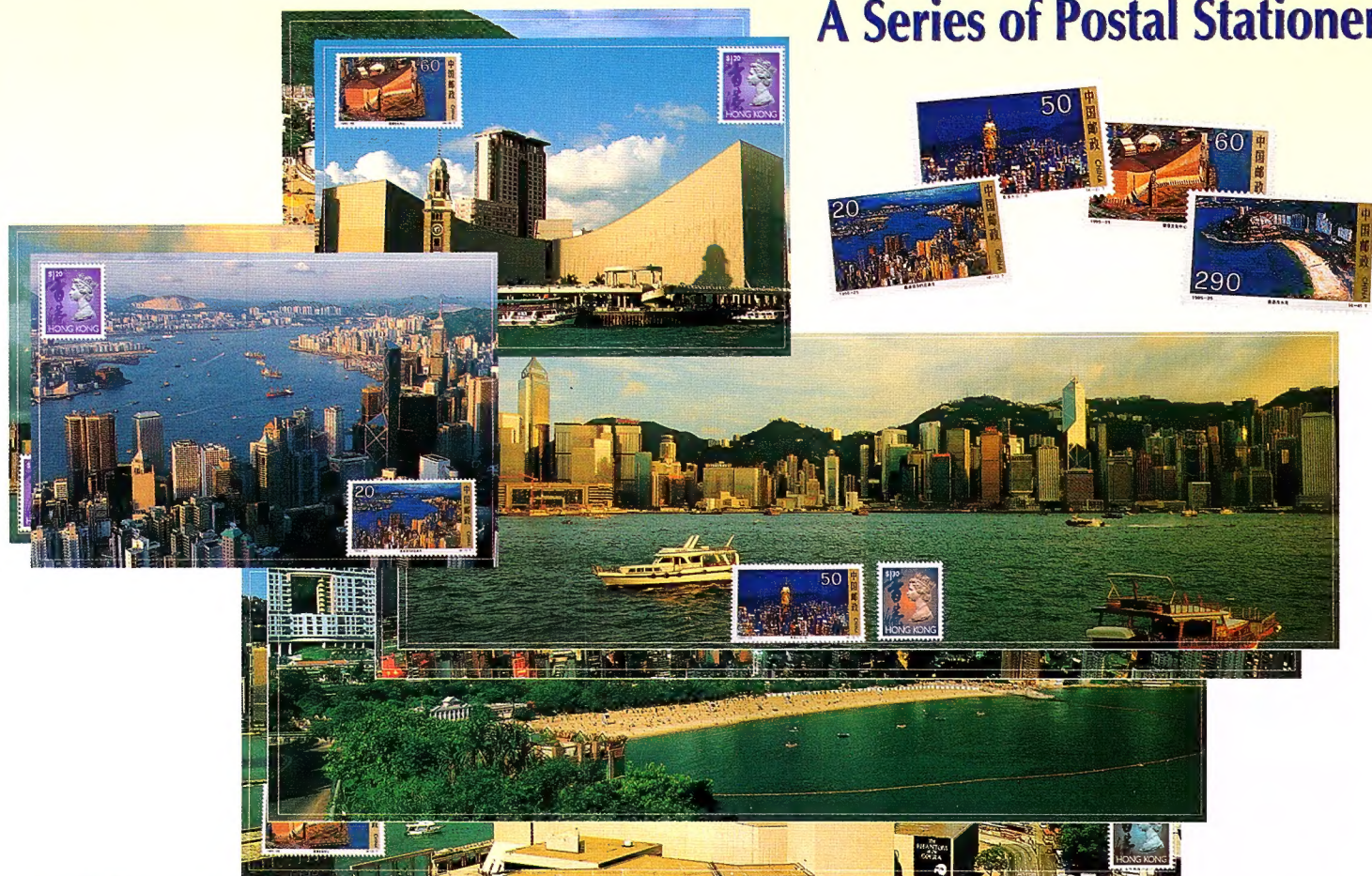
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On 28th November 1995, the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications of the People's Republic of China is issuing, for the first time, four commemorative stamps entitled *Scenic Hong Kong*. On the same date, Hong Kong China Tourism Press (HKCTP) and *Philately* of the People's Posts and Telecommunications Publishing House will jointly publish a set of *Scenic Hong Kong* postcards. The first series entitled *Return of Hong Kong* (12 cards per set) will be available in Beijing and Hong Kong only. HKCTP has proudly invited famous Hong Kong photographer Mr. Tchan Fou-l and China's well-known stamp designers Mr. Huang Li and Mr. Yan Bingwu to produce these state of the art postcards. On 28th November, both sides will stamp their own stamp-affixed post cards. The total distribution volume of these outstanding postcards is limited to only 20,000 sets. In order to satisfy the needs of philatelists, we recommend you order now.

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顧問

(按姓氏筆劃為序)

王德海 安子介 伍沾德
馬臨 馬志民 楊孝華
霍震寰 藍真

社長

陳復禮

副社長、總編輯

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業務拓展顧問

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業務總監

楊力民

總經理

盛二龍

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廖苾梅 李澤民

副總編輯

黎宗科 涂乃賢 陳一年

採訪編輯部主任

石寶琇

記者

謝光輝

助理編輯

余潔翠

外文編輯部主任

鄭文棟

編輯

美術編輯部主任

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編輯部、營業部

廣告部、訂閱推廣發行部

電話：2561 8001

Editorial Dept., Managing Dept.,

Advertising Dept., Promotion Dept.

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承印者

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Agencies

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FAR FROM THE MADDENING CROWD

The Lushan Mountains, in the very north of Jiangxi Province, have been praised since ancient times by poets and travelers for their beauty and freshness, the area long being a retreat from the torrid summers of the Yangtse River valley. No wonder thousands of tourists still flock there today. Although well-trodden, the area does still hold many surprises for the visitor willing to venture off the beaten track as you will see as we tour you away from the usual scenic sights of Mount Lushan. For example, the many European-style villas dotting the hillsides give testimony to the fact that this hill resort was originally built for wealthy Chinese and European missionaries, businessmen and diplomats who would have been awkwardly carried up in sedan chairs.

More sedately, we drift north to Shanxi Province and the ancient ferry port of Hequ County where a sacrificial ceremony is offered to the River God of the mighty Yellow River. At a temple built in the Qing Dynasty, the inhabitants of this village, known for their love of music, play, sing, dance and perform operas for three whole days.

Continuing on the theme of water imagine immersing yourself in one or all of the 48 springs of Halun Arxan in Inner Mongolia. These natural, therapeutic springs offer the imbiber cures for every ailment, whether it be relief from arthritis or a cure for cancer, or simply to strengthen the immune system there is definitely something here for everyone.

In stark contrast we move west to Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and the Desert of Death where the Keriya River is both the lifeblood and the namesake of the 100 or so Keriya families living in a green corridor in the middle of the Taklimakan Desert. These people have little if no contact with the outside world and yet seem to manage to survive on this arid, unforgiving terrain.

C O N T E N T S

In the Depths of Lushan Mountain

Lushan Mountain, with its breathtaking scenery, unique cloud and mist formations and tranquillity still has some surprises to offer. Discover, with us, the three treasures of Lushan Mountain, the hillside resort of early foreign settlers and its other, less well-known, attractions.



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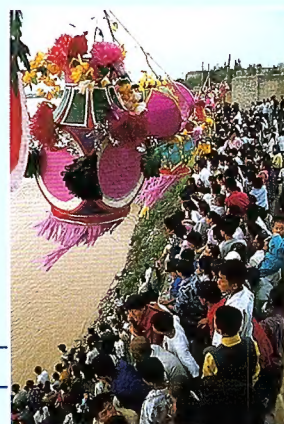


C O N T E N T S



Keriya People in the Taklimakan Desert

Our reporter ventures into the area known as the "Desert of Death" in north-west China to find the Keriya people. Living in a green oasis surrounded by sand dunes, sparse vegetation and unforgiving sandstorms these herdsmen seem to be able survive on what little food and water this terrain has to offer.



The River Lantern Festival at the Ancient Ferry in Shanxi

Three times a year the villagers of this ancient ferry port in Hequ County, Shanxi pay homage to the powerful River God of the mighty Yellow River. We join them during their most spectacular festival held in the seventh lunar month and witness three days of music and opera, and a beautiful display of hundreds of lighted candles illuminating the surface of the Yellow River as they float downstream.



Hot, Bubbling Springs for Celestial Beings

This cluster of therapeutic springs in Halun Arxan were first discovered in the days of Genghis Khan when they were used by his soldiers to cure themselves of their wounds and battle sickness, since then their fame and versatility has grown and today they are visited by anyone seeking relief from modern day ailments.

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Front Cover: Camel caravan through the Taklimakan Desert in Xinjiang (by Song Shijing)

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tourist highlights

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In the Depths *of*
Lushan
Mountain



Waterfall clouds pour down like torrents from the top of Lushan Mountain (by Yin Xixiang)

A Cool World *in* Hot Summer

一路上驕陽當空，但是一登上廬山，一股股強勁的涼風便驅趕着雲潮，遮蓋了太陽；細小的霧滴頓時讓人渾身充滿了清涼的感覺。

If you had five or six days holiday and were to ask me where to go to escape the unbearable, intense heat of a hot summer, I would tell you, without the slightest hesitation, of a cool world — Mount Lushan, south of the city of Jiujiang in Jiangxi Province. This is because I have been there once and experienced the escape of a deadly hot summer.

In July that year I joined a tour along the Yangtse River and travelled from Shanghai to Nanjing and Wuhu to Wuhan. The farther I went upstream, the hotter it got, and it was so stuffy that I gasped for breath. In Wuhan I saw thousands of people sleeping on the street at night. They fanned themselves by waving cattail leaf fans. Looking at the scene, I suddenly felt as if I were in "the Sea of Fire" in Hell.

But the next day I followed the stream of holidaymakers who went away for the summer to Lushan Mountain, where the scene was of late autumn. Although the same scalding red sun hung overhead and radiated heat, people did not feel its rays were so burning hot. Cool winds gusted one after another to drive the clouds, gathering at the foot of the mountain, to cover up the red sun, penetrate the forests, fill the valleys and drown out the travellers who moved like ants all over the mountain.

Walking in the mist, people were covered by droplets of water which felt wonderfully cool. If it was a drizzle, your hair, skin and clothes would get damp or wet but nobody cared a fig, because this was a kind of coolness worth enjoying in the hot summer.

Although enjoying the cool clouds and mists of Lushan Mountain there is one pleasure all visitors seek and that is the dreamlike enjoyment of watching the grotesquely shaped rocks and peaks changing in the clouds. If you choose a good viewing place, no matter whether it is Wulao (Five Old Men) Peaks, Jinxiu (Brocade) Valley, or Scissors Gorge, you will find fascinating scenes moving before your eyes. Like billowing waves on the sea, the clouds rise from the valleys and drift with the wind along the slopes, gathering together from all directions like a mighty force to cover up the whole Lushan Mountain in an instant. The next moment cold air comes down from the sky, the clouds disperse and the mountain unveils itself. The fantastic peaks, grotesque rocks and forests change into different enchanting views in the fast floating clouds.

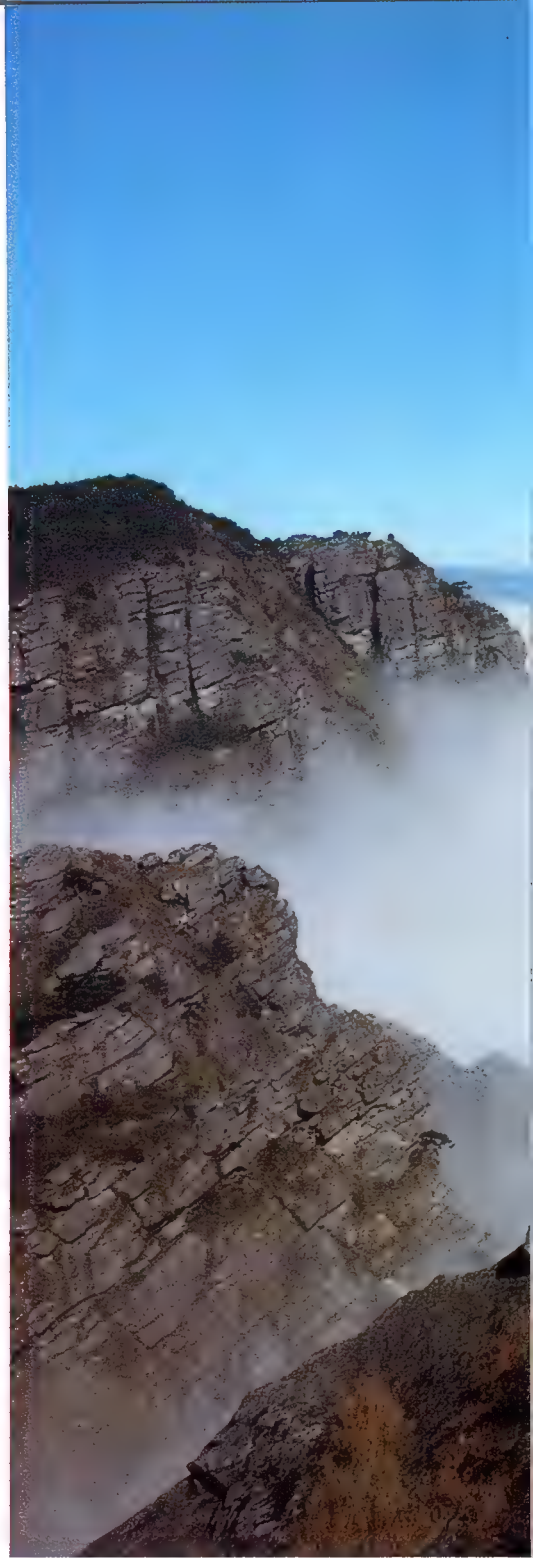
Lushan's clouds have many beautiful names such as Waterfall Clouds, Jade Belt Clouds, Scaling Ladder Clouds, Cloud Sea, Morning Mist, Rain Mist.... Among them, the Waterfall Clouds are the most

powerful. They float past the mountain peaks and drift into the valleys like the Milky Way coming down from the sky, which, if they had any sound, would be thunderous.

1. In summer, the Five Old Men Peaks become a string of "islets" in the sea of rolling clouds (by Wan Xinhua).

2. Drizzle creates both coolness and mystery to Lushan Mountain (by Yin Xixiang).

3. The peaks and forests around the Scissors Gorge look particularly beautiful when they are set off by drifting clouds (by Yin Xixiang).







秋 A Colourful World *in* Late Autumn

湖畔金黃的秋林，在晨光照耀下像一片片金箔耀眼透亮。而近處是一叢叢楓樹，那樹葉分成了紫紅、橘紅和火紅三個層次；在山崗上翠綠針葉和黃紅闊葉相間的色彩襯托下，分外燦爛。



Ten years had elapsed and it was late autumn when I went up the Lushan Mountain for the second time. Except for the paddy fields which were tinged golden yellow, all the woods were still lush green in the area south of the Yangtse.

It was cloudy and drizzling when I journeyed by train from Nanchang to Jiujiang. At about six o'clock in the evening I got off the train, boarded a bus heading straight for Lushan Mountain. By the time we reached the mountain road of "Four Hundred Twists and Turns", the world outside our bus had turned to rain and mist. Evening was unfolding, the clouds and mists were very dense and the pale yellow headlights of the bus could hardly penetrate the dense mist further than 10 metres. No one could see the real features of the autumn forests in Lushan Mountain.

It was dark when our bus reached Guling. The street lamps hanging by the side of the road radiated downy soft lights in the rain and mist. There were very few people on the street. It was totally different from the bustling scene of a hot summer where there were endless streams of people. Pulling my travelling bag, I walked on the road covered with



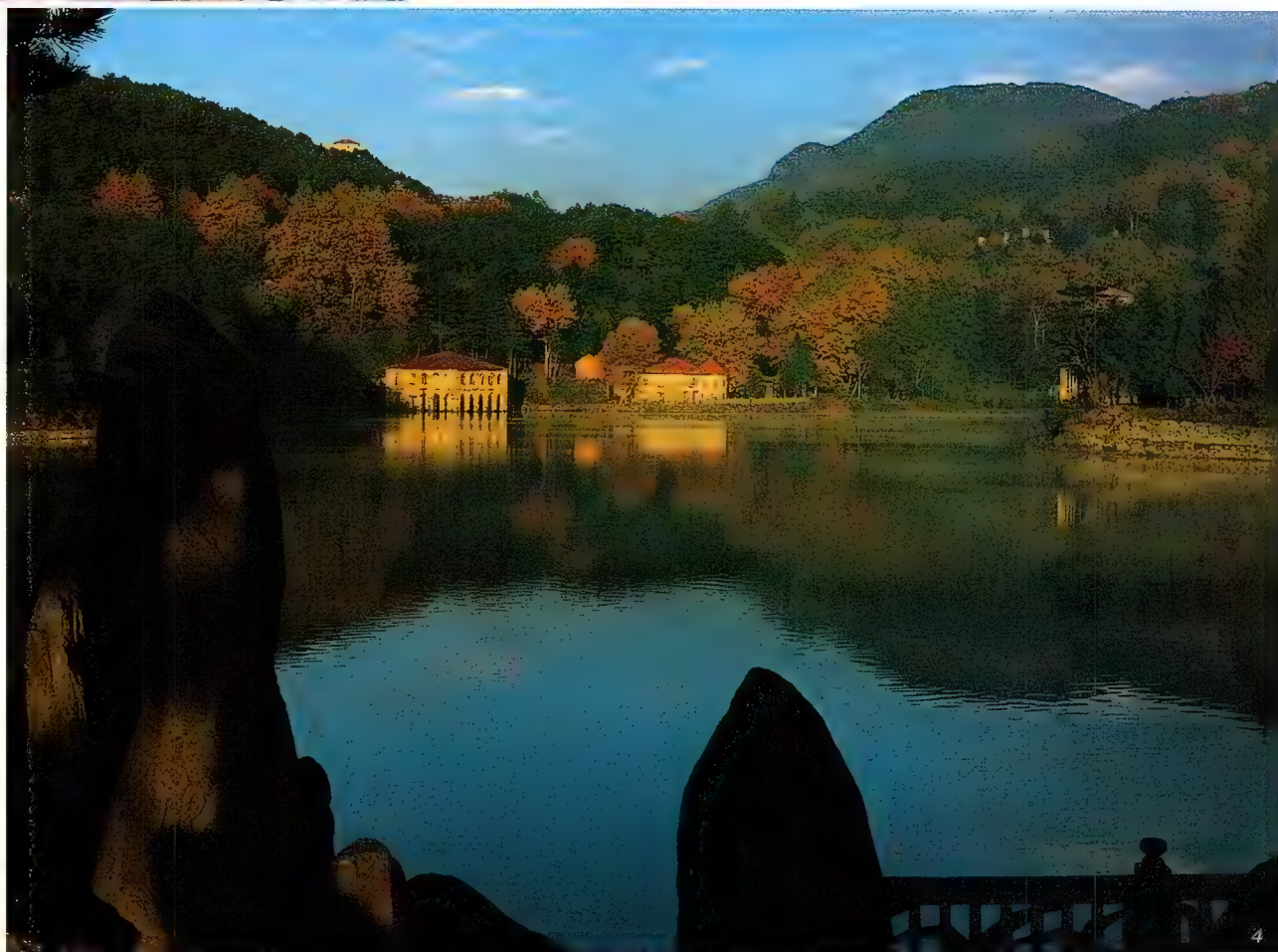
wet fallen leaves to lodge at a granite guesthouse by Ruqin (Fiddle-Like) Lake.

Early next morning, as I pushed open my window, a colourful autumn scene came into sight. The Fiddle-Like Lake was surrounded by a golden autumn forest. The autumn leaves were so dazzlingly yellow under the bright morning sunshine they looked like thin gold foil. The clumps of maples in the near distance were dyed purplish red, reddish orange and fiery red. On the hills around the lake the emerald green coniferous trees and the yellow red broadleaf trees set one another off and looked like multicoloured leopards. I had never expected the autumn scene in Lushan Mountain to be so colourful. Walking down a narrow path decorated by colourful autumn tree leaves I entered the Beautiful Valley with tier upon tier of crimsoned woods. When I reached the Yellow Dragon Pool, I found it too had become "a colourful pond" covered with autumn leaves floating on its surface.

However, the best autumn scene in Lushan Mountain was the botanical garden, where the maple trees were the most striking. On a slope in the garden the crimson maple leaves shook in the breeze like burning flames. At the time when all the leaves turn red, even the local "rustic" people who live on Guling Street cannot resist the temptation of the autumn scenery. Especially young girls who put on light-coloured clothes take a camera and go in groups to the maple forest to have their photos taken among the beautiful red leaves.

The autumn scene in Lushan Mountain is even more beautiful than in spring, because everywhere is a colourful world in autumn.

1. Lushan Mountain's air is pure, clean and unpolluted (by Wu Chenbin).
2. The botanical garden is at its most beautiful in autumn (by Yin Xixiang).
3. A mountain spring in late autumn (by Wu Chenbin)
4. Colourful mountain forests (by Chen Guomin)



A Silvery World *in* Midwinter

雖然地處南方，但是由於廬山山高，寒氣足夠，冬天有冰雪之外，還有素裹山林的霧凇，幾可媲美東北的白色世界！

In the depths of winter every year people flow to northeast China to enjoy the ice and snow there, to watch the silvery soft rime on the trees along the bank of the Songhua River. In fact it is not necessary to spend so much time and energy going several thousand kilometres to appreciate a world of ice and snow. In winter time Lushan Mountain is neither short of ice or snow nor lacks the soft rime covering the mountain trees.

The cold mountain air and warm vapours from the lakes come together forming an ice and snow configuration unique to the region south of the Yangtse.

In December every year Lushan Mountain enters its snow season, lasting till early March, the snow reaching 30 centimetres in depth.

Interestingly, there are different forms of rime, or frost, on this mountain. First, fog rime. When the temperature drops to below zero degrees centigrade, the dense fog immediately forms ice crystals when it touches the cold tree





branches. Ice crystals increase on the branches facing the wind which blows day and night until the trees covering the mountains become like "carved jade trees".

Rain rime forms mostly in early winter or early spring. When damp warm air currents from the south meet cold air currents from the north in the sky over

Lushan Mountain. They produce drizzle and the rain droplets freeze into transparent "crystals" when they fall on the rocks, grass, branches and leaves.

Snow rime is formed by snow on trees when it melts and re-freezes many times, while mixed rime is the product of rain, fog and snow in cooperation.

Lushan Mountain in winter is a sil-



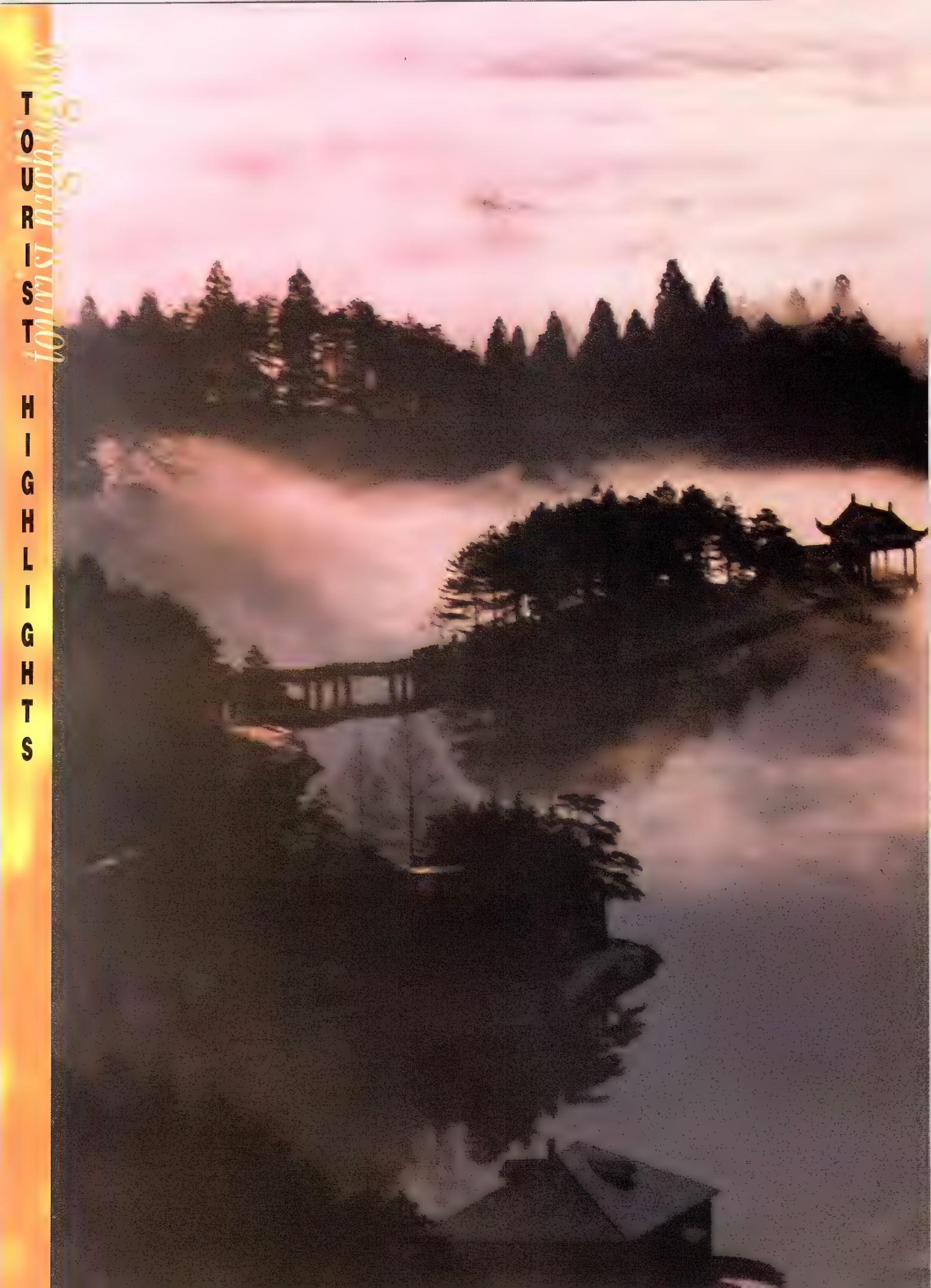
ver world formed by snow and rime. If you come on a fine day after a recent snowfall, you will find deep valleys and high peaks covered by snow and rime, while white clouds rise to drift slowly among jade-like trees in the forest. White clouds, white trees, white peaks, white valleys and white houses all dazzle in the sunshine.

Touring Lushan Mountain in winter plunges oneself into a silvery enchanting world and it is something everyone would like to do.

Translated by Xiong Zhenru
Article by Shi Bao Xiu

1. In the depths of winter Lushan Mountain is a silvery world of ice and snow (by Wu Chenbin).
2. Long "dragon beards" hang on the Dragon Head Cliff (by Xiong Yuansheng).
3. Leaves and berries of evergreen trees are covered by rain rime (by Yin Xixiang).
4. The true features of the mountain forests are completely concealed by fog rimes and falling snow (by Xiong Yuansheng).

TOURIST HIGHLIGHTS





**The Fiddle-Like Lake in summer is “a fairyland”
enshrouded in clouds and mists**

(by Yin Xixiang)

Food, Accommodation and Transport

Food Many restaurants, line Guling Street, and some are fairly large in scale with exquisite decoration, mainly serving Jiangxi, Cantonese, Sichuan or Huaiyang cuisines. Some snack shops specialize in home-cooked food as well as breakfast and night snacks. Prices on Mount Lushan are higher than in Jiujiang and fluctuate with the season the highest in June, July and August when it is the main

tourist season. If you want to taste real Lushan delicacies, find a high-class restaurant where the real delicacies are served. Jiangxi food is chilli based, so if you don't like hot food tell the waiter when ordering. The soup of pork ribs stewed with white turnips is recommended.

Accommodation There are many guesthouses and hotels on Mount

Lushan, plus countless inns and hostels. Many sanatoria have also opened to the tourists for temporary lodging. So finding accommodation on Mount Lushan is not a problem. (see hotel price list)

Transport There are two routes to ascend Mount Lushan. One is to take a special bus line from Nanchang using the expressway to Jiujiang area and then take the highway on the southern side of the mountain to Guling Street. The other is by train from Wuhan or Nanchang or to take the Yangtse River boat from Nanjing or Wuhan to Jiujiang City. Then take a special mini-bus line to Guling Street along the northern highway.

Transportation is quite convenient on Mount Lushan. Special mini-bus lines provide one- or two-day guided tours. If you want to tour the mountain by yourself, take a mini-bus or taxi to the various scenic spots. If in a group, it is worth sharing the price of a taxi. If you have the spirit to walk along small mountain paths, you will come across scenery that others may not see. Hiring a mini-bus to take five or six people from Guling Street to the foot of the Five Old Men Peaks will only costs you 30 yuan.

Translated by M. Q.

Major Hotels in Lushan Area

Name	Star-Rated	Double Room Rates (RMB)		
		Deluxe	Standard	Ordinary
Lushan	2	420	160-240	80-120
Lushan Mansion	2	420	180-280	100-140
Lulin	2	420	160-240	80-120
Guling	2	380	140-240	80-140
Yunzhong	2	400	140-280	80-120
Villa Village		400	140-320	80-140
Yuntain		380	140-280	80-140
Jinwei		380	140-280	80-140
Yinhe		380	140-280	80-140
Lushan		380	140-280	80-140
Training Centre		380	140-280	80-140

1. The "Three Stone Dish" (by Xiong Yuansheng)
2. Main Entrance to Mount Lushan (by He Lixin)
3. The Food Street beside the Street Centre Park of Guling Street (by Wu Chenbin)



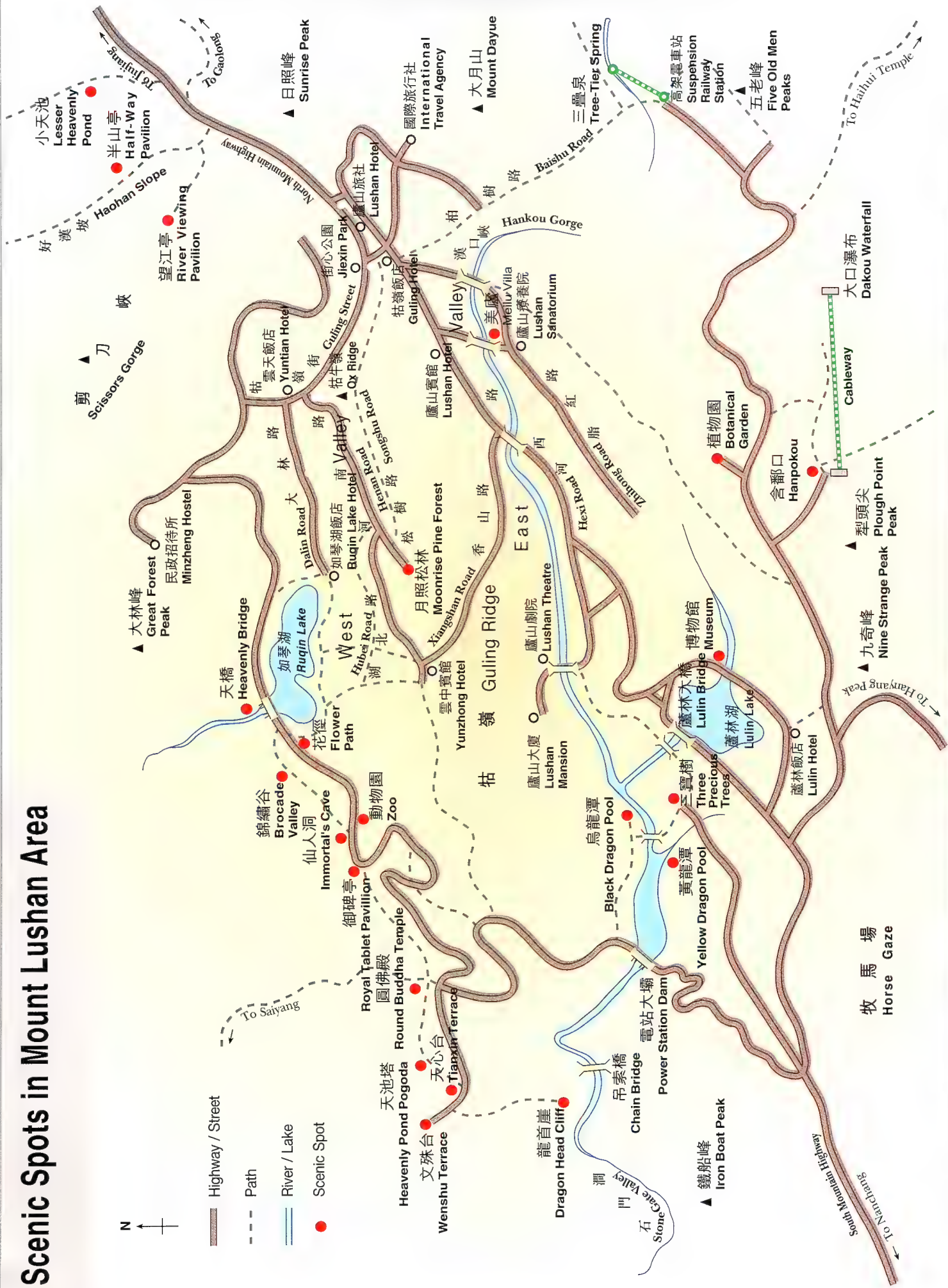
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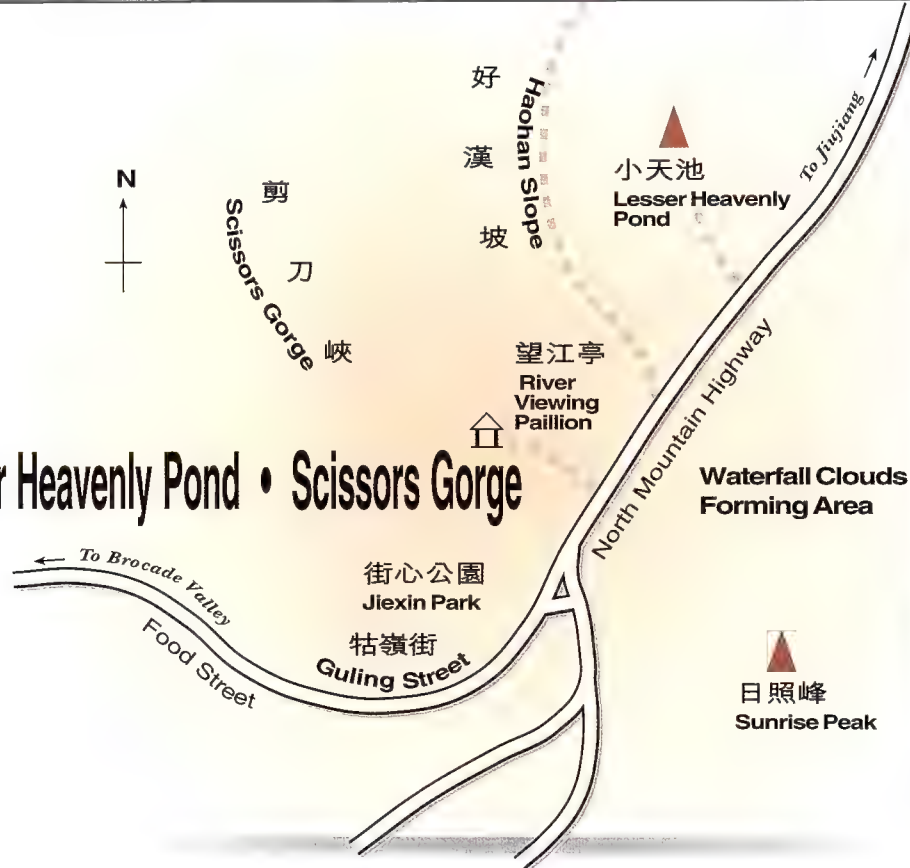
Scenic Spots in Mount Lushan Area



帶你遊

Guling Street • Lesser Heavenly Pond • Scissors Gorge

登廬山，必先
去逛雲霧中的街市——
牯嶺長街。
而附近的小天池、
剪刀峽，都是
觀看雲海騰飛的
好去處……



Guling Street Mini-buses out of Jiujiang ascend the Guling or Bull Ridge after driving along the twisting mountain road. Between Sunshine Peak and Tiger Back Ridge is a narrow street shrouded by clouds. This is Guling Street.

The street, 1,167 metres above sea

level, is lined with tourist souvenir shops and restaurants of either Chinese or Western food. During the peak tourist season in summer, it becomes so crowded that the place resembles a temple fair. Most tourists find their accommodation in the guesthouses and hotels covering the slope of the Guling Ridge. There are also a sanatorium and a food street.

The park on Guling Street is located in the centre section and faces the deep valley of the Scissors Gorge. A sculpture of a bull surrounded with flowers stands in the park. It is a place for both local residents and tourists to spend their leisure time.

The Lesser Heavenly Pond Located on the mountain ridge northeast of Guling Street, this pond is only about seven metres in diameter. It is said to have been the place where Zhu Yuanzhang, the founding emperor of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), once watered his horse. Nowadays people are accustomed to referring to the whole mountain as the Lesser Heavenly Pond. A white Lamaist dagoba stands on the summit. The highest point of the mountain provides an advantageous place to view the Yangtse River, sea of clouds and sunrise.

Whenever clouds appear, the foot of the Lesser Heavenly Pond mountain

offers a fantastic view. The "waterfall clouds", which Mount Lushan is famous for, often appear on the Sunrise Peak east of the pond. The surging current of clouds cascade down the Sunrise Peak, creating an impressive sight.

The Scissors Gorge Descending from the Lesser Heavenly Pond, the bus drives for three kilometres along the mountain road towards Guling Street and arrives at the River Viewing Pavilion. To look down from the pavilion gives a view of the broad and precipitous Scissors Gorge which leads straight down the mountain without turning. The gorge provides a passageway for the clouds. At the pavilion, one can see clearly the evaporation rising from the Yangtse River and lakes at the foot of the mountain, which, driven by the hot current, drifts into the valley, becoming thicker and changing instantly into rolling clouds, caressing the mountain peaks once they meet with the cool air currents from Mount Lushan. Under the pressure of the cold currents, the clouds quickly retreat along the Scissors Gorge and disperse, revealing a clear view of the Yangtse River flowing eastward and the streets of Jiujiang City.



Cloud Tea from Mount Lushan

The Yunwu (Cloud and Mist) Tea of Mount Lushan was first cultivated as early as the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220) nearly 2,000 years ago. It became a tribute to the emperor during the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Nowadays it is listed as one of the 10 most famous teas in China. Thanks to being nurtured all year round by cloud and mist and watered by mountain spring waters, the tea plants of Mount Lushan plantations have fine, crispy, green leaves. Yunwu Tea is meticulously processed giving a pure aroma, has a beautiful colour and produces clear tea water. When buying be careful to choose the genuine type of the tea at the tourist shops in Lushan City. The best tea is always picked before the Clear and Bright Festival (April 5) with every leaf or two attached with a tender bud.

Distances to Major Tourist Attractions from Guling Town

Destination	Distance (km)	Via
Xingzi County	52	North or South Mountain Highway
Xiufeng Peak	48	South Mountain Highway
Hot Spring Area	38	South Mountain Highway
White Deer Cave	48	North Mountain Highway
Guanyin Bridge	10	Hanpoku Road
Lotus Cave	8	Haohanpo Road
Haihui Temple	11	Botanical Garden Road
Immortal's Cave	2.5	Flower Path
Five Old Men Peaks	5.5	Botanical Garden Road
Three-Tier Spring	5	Small roads
Greater Heavenly Pond	4	Immortal's Cave
Lesser Heavenly Pond	2.5	River Viewing Pavilion
Three Precious Trees	3.5	Lulin Lake
Hanpoku	6	Lulin Lake

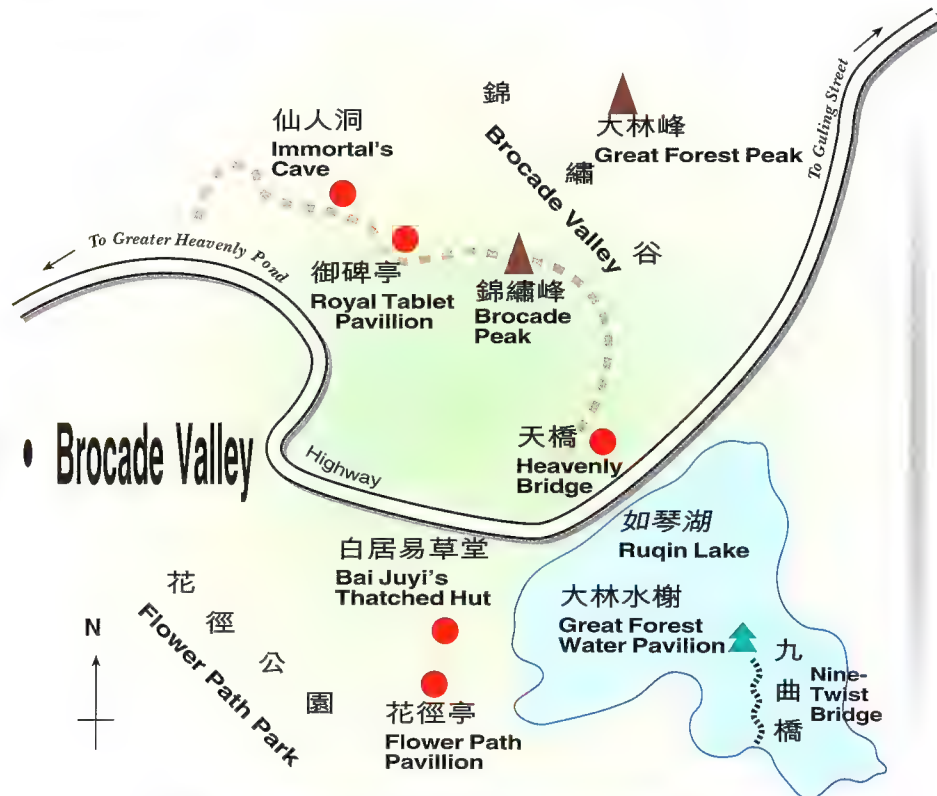


1. Guling Street at dusk (by Xiong Yuansheng)
2. It is a real pleasure to watch the clouds at Mount Lushan and taste a cup of Cloud and Mist Tea (by Shi Bao Xiu).
3. The bull statue is a symbol of Guling Street (by Shi Bao Xiu).
4. The Lesser Heavenly Pond shrouded in clouds as seen from the Camel Peak (by Shi Bao Xiu).

帶你遊

Ruqin Lake • Flower Path • Brocade Valley

從牯嶺街向西南
行一公里，
便到了遊人光顧
最多的錦繡谷景區，
湖光、山色、
園林之外，更有
煙雲繚繞……



Ruqin Lake Ruqin (Fiddle-Like) Lake is less than a kilometre west of Guling Street. Although it is man-made, its water surface is huge and its coasts twist and turn along with the mountain forests, creating the illusion of a natural lake. On the lake is built the Great Forest Water Pavilion, the Nine Twist Bridge and Yiqin Pavilion. At the wharf, it is possible to rent row boats.

When clouds roll out of the Brocade

Valley at the western side of the lake, clusters of clouds hover over the lake surface which advance towards the peaks on Guling Ridge. When this scene occurs, the Great Forest Water Pavilion and Yiqin Pavilion seem to be heavenly palaces.

The Flower Path On the west bank of Ruqin Lake is a mountain top garden called the Flower Path Park. Inlaid with stone arch bridges, corridors and flower

exhibition rooms, the garden is filled with precious flowers and plants as well as aged trees and strange-looking rocks. On the right of the Flower Hall is the Flower Path Pavilion which shelters a stone tablet carved with two huge Chinese characters announcing "Flower Path", believed to be in the handwriting of Bai Juyi, a great poet of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). In the bamboo grove north of the pavilion, a thatched hut in memory of Bai Juyi has recently been built, as people say this used to be where the poet once composed poems in praise of peach blossoms in the ancient Great Forest Temple on Mount Lushan.

Inside the park, there is also a zoo dedicated to raising leopards, peacocks, pandas and other rare animals.

The Brocade Valley From the Flower Path, one only has to cross the highway to enter a deep valley with sheer cliffs serving as a natural gateway. This is the famous Brocade Valley, which is a major attraction for tourists visiting Mount Lushan. To enter the valley from the Heavenly Bridge (where a protruding long stone lies across a pond at the entrance of the valley) go down along the stone stairs, it gives one the opportunity to see the precipitous cliffs, strange peaks and grotesque rocks. If one happens to



1. The deep Brocade Valley is a place where clouds and mists often appear (by Shi Bao Xiu).
2. The Great Forest Water Pavilion at Ruqin Lake (by Chen Guomin)
3. A rainbow over the Brocade Valley (by Xiong Yue)
4. This clever self-employed photographer appointed this rock as being the one where once Mao Zedong had a picture taken (by Shi Bao Xiu).

Stone Fungus, First of the Three Treasures of Mount Lushan

The stone fungus grown on the cliffs at Mount Lushan belongs to the same family as black fungus. It is of high nutritional value and nurtures the yin element to clear away excessive lung heat as it contains glycogen, collacin, iron, phosphorus, calcium and many kinds of vitamins. Stone fungus, usually packed in either bags or boxes, can be found in some of the tourist souvenir shops at Guling Street.

Average Temperature in Lushan Area

Location	Guling Street	Jiujiang
Elevation		
Season	1,167 m	32 m
Spring	11.5°C	16.5°C
Summer	23.1°C	29.7°C
Autumn	14.6°C	20.1°C
Winter	1.9°C	5.0°C



be caught by tumbling clouds, one will be rewarded with miraculous changing views in the valley. At the summit of the Brocade Peak, one faces staggering cliffs and deep valleys. In the north is the Yangtse River and the ancient pagodas and halls of the Donglin (East Forest) and Xilin (West Forest) temples.

Further down the Brocade Valley, passing the Royal Tablet Pavilion, you will find yourself at the Immortal's Cave. A stone cave formed by natural weathering, the cave is said to be where Lü Dongbin, one of the Eight Immortals of the Tang Dynasty, achieved immortality. Today, a stone sculpture of Immortal Lü is housed in the cave and worshipped by many visitors. Tourist often like to have their fortune told, as well as taking a rest over a cup of tea.



帶你遊

Greater Heavenly Pond • Dragon Head Cliff • Dragon Pools

廬山的西南景區，
是一串傳奇色彩濃郁的
景點，有文殊菩薩
巨手挖出的大天池，
有龍首崖和黑、黃二龍潭
和一棵古銀杏、兩棵
杉樹緊密相依的三寶樹

鐵船山
Iron Boat Peak

石門澗
Stone Gate Valley

大天池
Greater Heavenly Pond

龍首崖
Dragon Head Cliff

大壩
Power Station Dam

黑龍潭
Black Dragon Pool

黃龍潭
Yellow Dragon Pool

三寶村
Three Precious Trees

圓佛殿
Round Buddha Temple

天池塔
Heavenly Pond Pagoda

仙人洞
Immortal's Cave



Highway

To Rugui Lake

To Lulin Lake



The Greater Heavenly Pond To visit the pond from the Immortal's Cave, one simply follows the Heavenly Pond Road southwestward, passing the Round Buddha Hall and Heavenly Pond Pagoda before one arrives at the destination. According to another legend, when the Goddess of Mercy Manjusri came here from Mount Wutai and found the beautiful mountain lacking water, she reached out her huge hands and digging, two ponds appeared. Strangely, out of all mountain ponds here at Mount Lushan only these two ponds have clear waters

that never dry up, even when there is a drought.

By the lake is the Heavenly Pond Temple. Inside is a terrace called the Manjusri Terrace, in the shape of a crescent for worshipping the sun. On the terrace one can see in the distance the Iron Boat Peak and the Stone Gate Valley below. More importantly, on a dark night without stars or moon, one can sometimes see dozens, or as many as a hundred of what are described as "Buddhist lamps" drifting in the valley, some turning brighter and dimmer, others

gathering and dispersing. Till this day, no one can say for sure what these miraculous "Buddhist lamps" really are.

The Dragon Head Cliff A twisting path of stairs to the right of the Heavenly Pond Temple lead down the mountain and to the top of the Dragon Head Cliff. If one looks down against the iron railing, one will find a deep valley. When the weather turns fine after a rainfall, five-coloured clouds often can be seen at this spot. In the past, when these clouds appeared, some extremely pious disciples of Buddhism believed that the Buddha had come to pick them up to heaven and so they plunged into the sea of cloud, thus giving the cliff another name: Self-Sacrifice Cliff. From the stone pavilion to the right below the cliff, one can see the silhouette of the Dragon Head Cliff whose precipitous position makes it look like the rising head of a dragon.

The Dragon Pools To see the waterfall at the Stone Gate Valley one goes downhill along a narrow path and passes a cabled bridge on the way. If one wants to return uphill, it will take some walking. As a result, tourists normally return to the Greater Heavenly Pond from the Dragon Head Cliff, take a mini-bus and get off at the Power Station Dam. Then they walk

along a stream through thick bamboo groves to see the dragon pools.

The Yellow Dragon Pool is not far from the mountain path. Here water drops off the cliff into the valley below where a pond is formed. Colourful butterflies are a common sight at the pool. Some of the huge rocks by the pond are carved with historical inscriptions. Turning left across a stone bridge and then to the right, one will see waters from five

springs feeding into the Black Dragon Pool. Comparatively speaking, the waterfall here is short and forceful, but the pond is relatively shallow.

From here the mountain path uphill leads to the Three Precious Trees, where an aged ginkgo tree and two old cypress trees grow together into one. It takes more than four people to fully stretch out their arms to circle the trunks of this tree which are all more than a thousand

years old. Under the shade of the tree are restaurants, tea huts and kiosks, providing visitors with a resting place.

1. The Round Buddha Hall shrouded in clouds (by Xiong Yuansheng)
2. Locals picking stone fungus on Dragon Head Cliff (by Xiong Yuansheng)
3. Two "dragons playing with a pearl" at the Black Dragon Pool (by Shi Bao Xiu)



Stone Fish, Second Treasure

This fish received its name from its habitat in the stone cracks of deep pools at Mount Lushan. Most of them are found in the valley rivers at the Stone Gate Valley. Though they are only several centimetres long, their meat is tender, delicious and highly nutritious, making it a very expensive food which is particularly good for lying-in women.

If you want to try stone fish on the Food Street at Mount Lushan, it is better to rely on the recommendations of local friends, to avoid paying a high price for eating just ordinary small fish.

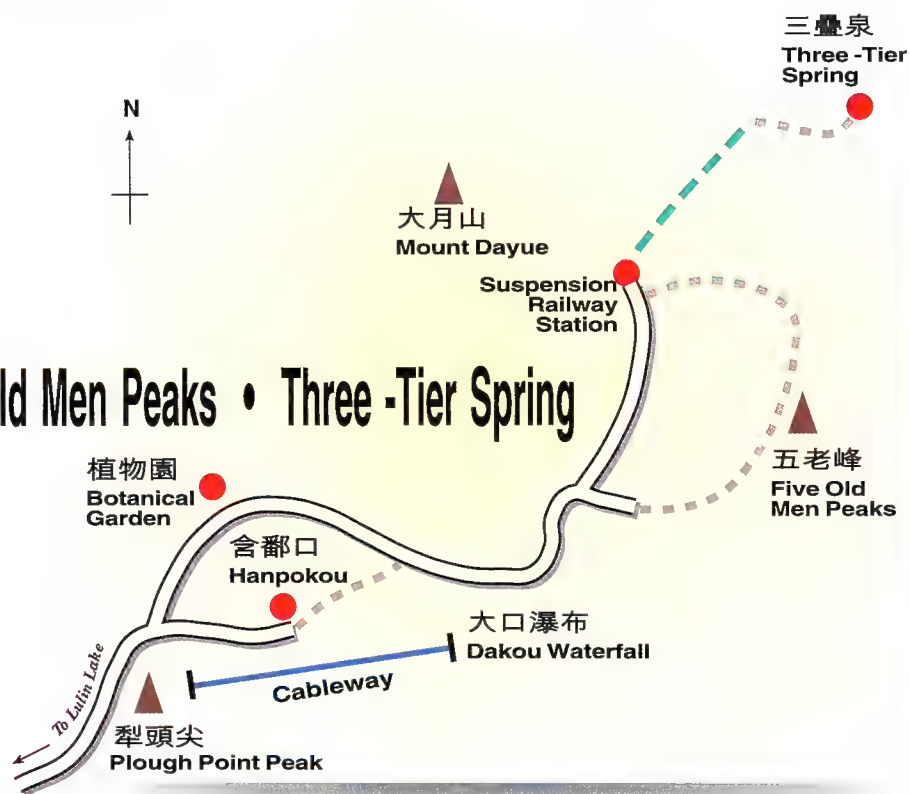
Elevation of Major Attractions in Lushan Area (m)

Hanyang Peak 1,474	Botanical Garden 1,111	Greater Heavenly Pond 900
Three-Tier Spring 1,391	Flower Path 1,095	Three Gorges Bridge 555
Five Old Men Peaks 1,358	Immortal's Cave 1,049	Dragon Palace Cave 70
Lesser Heavenly Pond 1,213	Three Precious Trees 1,000	Mount Stone Bell 57
Hanpoku 1,211	River Viewing Pavilion 980	Jiujiang City 32
Guling Street 1,167	Lulin Lake 900	Xingzi County 20

帶你遊

Hanpoku • Five Old Men Peaks • Three-Tier Spring

廬山的東南景區，
有含鄱口的
寬闊視野，可飽覽
鄱陽湖水接連
天際的氣勢；攀登
五老峰，峰峰有
奇趣；深入三疊泉的
幽谷，更讓人
留連忘返……



Hanpoku Travelling uphill from the Three Previous Trees and passing through a dense forest of fir trees, one will arrive at the Reed Forest Lake, which is also man-made. In the thick forest on the east bank lies the Mount Lushan Museum which stands on the grounds of Mao Zedong's former villa. One can go directly to Hanpoku by mini-bus.

A small hill in the middle of Hanpoku or Hanpo Passageway is called the Hanpo Ridge whose summit is crowned with the Hanpo Pavilion. To view the Poyang Lake from the pavilion, one will see the lake stretching into the horizon. It is also an ideal place to view the sunrise. The valley in front of the Hanpo Passageway is formed by the Hanyang Peak, Nine-Strange Peak and Five Old Men Peaks. It is an interesting place to watch the changing clouds and mists too.

In the valley at the back of the Hanpo Passageway is a famous subtropical botanical garden called the Lushan Botanical Garden, where not only Chinese but foreign plants are cultivated.

Five Old Men Peaks Crossing through the botanical garden and walking about three kilometres one enters the mountain pass of the Five Old Men Peaks. Going further along the stone staircase for about 1,000 metres, one comes to the summit of the First Old Man Peak, where one is immediately rewarded with a feeling of openness and space. Here, one can see the magnificent

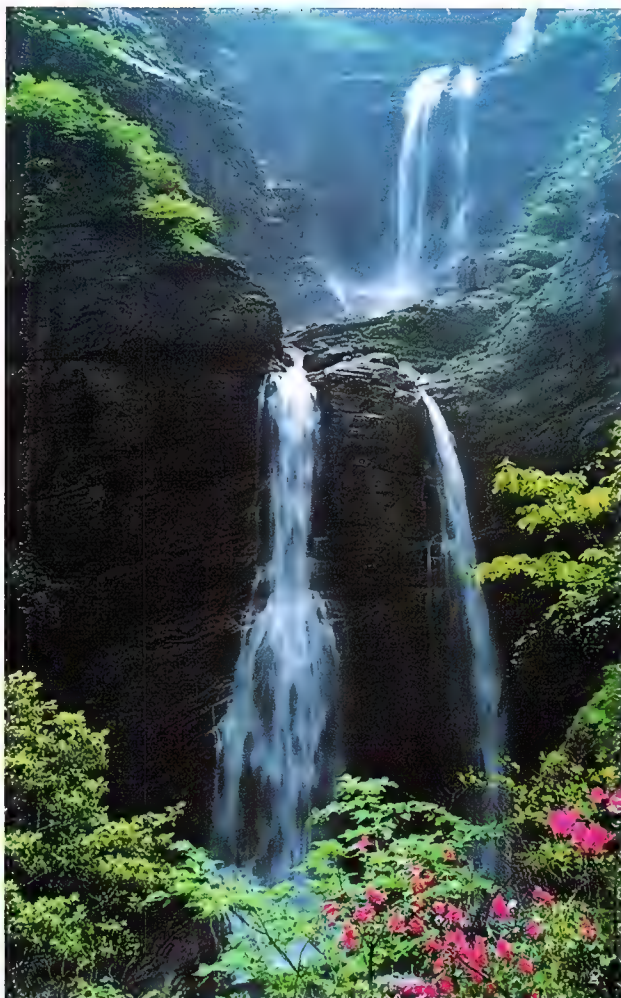


Greater Hanyang Peak in the distance. The Second Old Man Peak is known for the Five Old Men Cave which was created by several huge rocks. The Third Old Man Peak is very precipitous. The Fourth Old Man Peak is the tallest of the five, thus being the most ideal place to view the sunrise over the Poyang Lake. The Fifth Old Man Peak is sharp and magnificent. To appreciate the magnificence of the five peaks, there actually is no place better than Haihui Temple down the mountain, where one can enjoy the unique sight of five joining peaks.

The Three-Tier Spring Once at the foot of the Five Old Men Peaks, one

comes to the Suspension Railway Station which faces a food street. While ascending in the cable car, one will have the chance to appreciate the scenic sites in the valley. In about 20 minutes, the cable car arrives at the mountain summit where the Three-Tier Spring is. From here, a path of more than 1,000 stairs down the mountain leads to a grand view of a waterfall in three tiers. At the first tier, mists rise from the water. At the second tier the water pours down heavily and at the third tier, a huge waterfall appears, cascading into the pond below.

Translated by Huang Youyi
Article by Shi Bao Xiu



Stone Frog, Third Treasure

The stone frog at Mount Lushan is brown in colour with dark brown dots on its back. It is found in caves and mountain streams where it is dark and damp. Low in fat and sugar and high in nutrition, it is easy to digest and thus is a rare kind of meat at Mount Lushan.

Sunrise Timetable

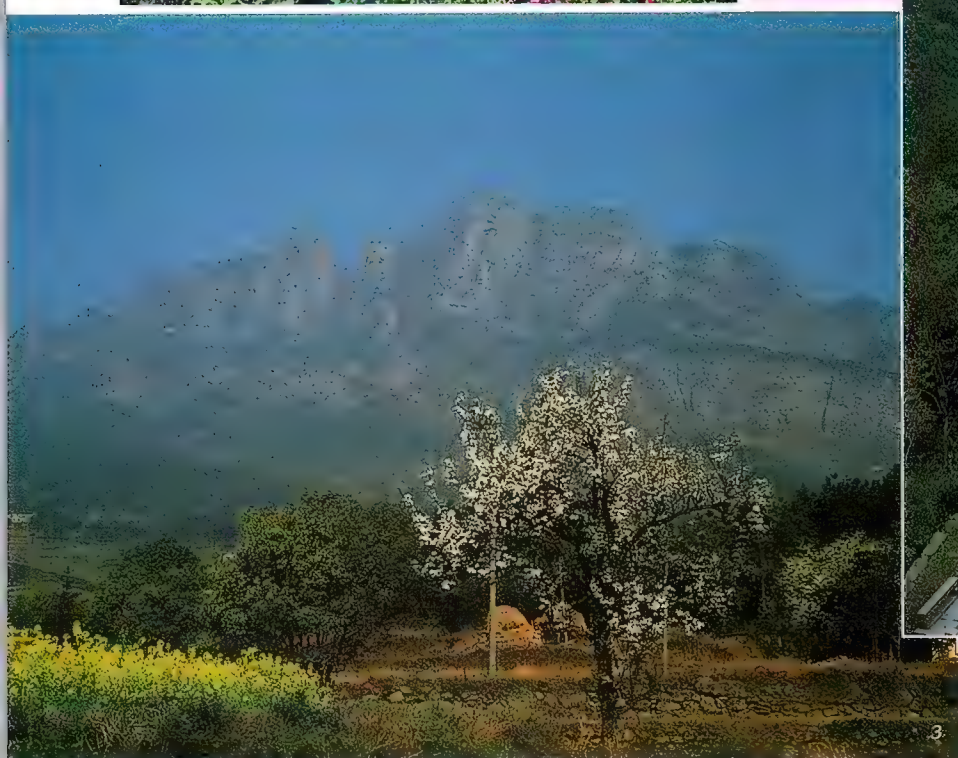
Month	Hour
1	7:12
2	6:56
3	6:27
4	5:50
5	5:25
6	5:15
7	5:26
8	5:44
9	6:00
10	6:17
11	6:40
12	7:03

1. The Third Old Man Peak and the Greater Hanyang Peak (by Shi Bao Xiu)

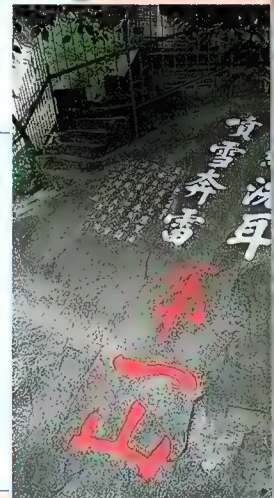
2. The Three-Tier Spring is a popular site for visitors to Mount Lushan (by He Lixin).

3. The view down the mountain from Hanpo Passageway offers a fantastic view (by Yin Xixiang).

4. The Poyang Lake Viewing Pavilion on Hanpo Ridge is the most advantageous point for viewing the sea of clouds and the distant lake (by Shi Bao Xiu).



Tourist Map of Mount Lushan Area



Countless Scenic Places

環繞廬山山麓，有許多名勝古蹟，
特別是山南的秀峰，值得一遊

Around Mount Lushan, there are many historical spots and places of interest worthy of a visit.

WHITE DEER ACADEMY

On the east side of Mount Lushan Haihui Temple lying in near ruins, but now being renovated. Looking at the Five Old Men Peaks, you can feel the magnificence of the mountain.

Not far away from Haihui Temple is the White Deer Academy where the great neo-Confucianist Zhu Xi gave lectures. Amidst mountain forest an ancient architectural style.

THE SIXTH SPRING UNDER THE HEAVEN

Continuing southward, you will come to a place called Wulipai where you turn right onto a small path leading into a quiet valley spanned by the famous Three Gorges Ancient Bridge, also known as the Bridge of Goddess of Mercy. On its right bank of the Three Gorge Ancient Bridge is the Sixth Spring Under the Heaven named in ancient times by the famous Tea Master Lu Yu. Wooden ladles are provided at the spring for tourists to taste the sweat water. The tea made from the water and the Cloud and Mist Tea of Mount Lushan is extremely good.

XIUFENG SCENIC AREA

Turning west for about 10 kilometres from Xingzi County for is the Xiufeng (Slender Peak) Scenic Area. Passing

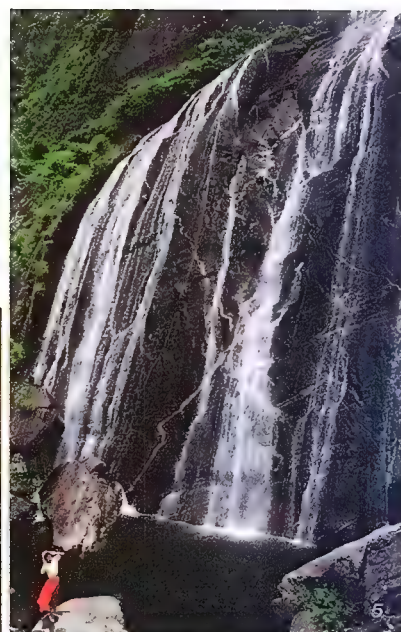


through the ruins of the Xiufeng Temple, a zigzagged path leads to two huge waterfalls, one called Horse Tail Waterfall which comes out from a narrow cliff between the Crane Cry Peak and the Tortoise Back Peak and spreads out like a horsetail, the other Yellow Rock Waterfall.

Going southwest you will pass the ruins of Guizong Temple, Jade Curtain Spring Waterfall and the Drunken Stone of Tao Yuanming (376-427), the great poet of the Eastern Jin Dynasty, past the Tomb of Tao Yuanming, the Yuantong Temple and the pagodas of the East and West Forest temples to finally arrive at Jiujiang.

EAST FOREST TEMPLE

The East Forest Temple, located at the western foot of Mount Lushan surrounded by beautiful peaks, green pines and bamboos, is the largest among all the temples on Mount Lushan. Built 1,400 years ago it is the place of origin of the Pure Land Sect. Beside the bamboo



grove behind the Divine Fortune Hall is the Spring of Intelligence. Tourists are often seen drinking water from the spring. It is said that Monk Hui Yuan had a good friend who had the gift of the gab, and he once said that his friend's intelligence was as clear as the spring water at the foot of the mountain. Since then, it is said the spring bestows intelligence on anyone who drinks its waters!

The old house on top of the hill is where Monk Hui Yuan translated the Buddhist scriptures and studied the doctrines of the Pure Land Sect.

1. The newly-built Iron Buddha Temple (by Shi Bao Xiu)
2. The White Deer Hollow in the White Deer Academy (by Shi Bao Xiu)
3. Ancient stone-carvings by famous people in the Green Jade Valley (by Shi Bao Xiu)
4. The sweet water of the Sixth Spring Under the Heaven (by Shi Bao Xiu)
5. The Horse Tail Waterfall (by Wu Chenbin)
6. The mountain gate of the Bridge of the Goddess of Mercy (by Shi Bao Xiu)
7. The Ancient Scripture Pillar in the ruins of the Xiufeng Temple (by Shi Bao Xiu)



Lushan Villas

在牯嶺街的東、西兩谷，散落著許多西方人建築的老別墅，造型、風格各有千秋……

After enjoying the scenery on Mount Lushan, one finds another surprise in store for those wishing to take a walk on Guling Ridge and see the old villas of different national styles in the East and West valleys.

Established as a hill resort by early foreign settlers, an English missionary built the first Western-style holiday house in the East Valley of Mount Lushan in 1885. Since then people from all walks of life from more than 20 countries and regions as well as Chinese citizens had built more than 900 villas in different national styles. Most of them are scattered in the woods in the East and West valleys on Guling Ridge.

AMERICAN VILLAS ON MOUNTAIN SLOPE

The American-style villas are constructed of granite stones with one or two storeys and built mainly on the mountain slopes. Designed with two flights of steps on both sides of the building they are connected with a semi-circular corridor at the gateway. The grey granite walls, white windows and red iron tiles look very distinctive among the green woods. Mao Zedong, Zhou Enlai, Zhu De and Peng Dehuai had all once lived in these villas.

VIVID BRITISH VILLAS

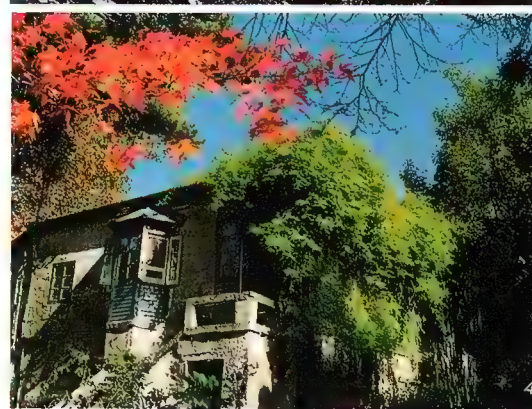
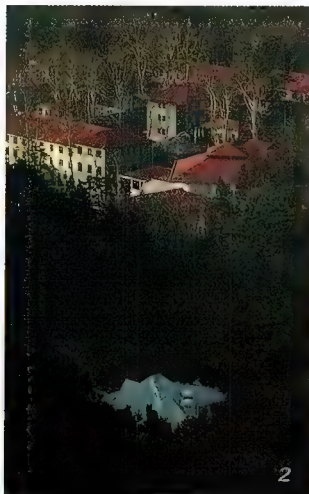
The British-style villas are mainly constructed with a pointed roof and the design of the walls, staircases and corridors are exquisitely built in an imaginative style. In the 1930s, General Feng Yuxiang once lived in the British villa at No. 441 on Hexi Road. The Meilu Villa

where Chiang Kai-shek and Madame Song Meiling once lived is quite well known. Meilu Villa is beautiful on the outside and luxuriously decorated inside. The corridor pillars of its main building are painted green, in harmony with the trees surrounding it. Later Mao Zedong often lodged here when he visited Mount Lushan.

EXQUISITE VILLAS BUILT BY THE CHINESE

Russian-style villas mostly have high, pointed roofs. Their high eaves and thick walls make them warm in winter and cool in summer. In the West Valley at Guling Ridge there are two villas which are exquisite and chic. Called Chongya and Wulou, both were constructed by the Chinese during the period of the Republic. The whole building structure varies in height and layout, and looks outstanding among the other buildings in the West Valley.

1. The bedroom of Chiang Kai-shek in Meilu Villa (by He Lixin)
2. A modern villa (by Guo Jiasheng)
3. Villas on Mount Lushan at the end of the 1930s (Contributed by Chen Hong)
4. Meilu Villa was originally the private house of a British woman. It was transferred to Chiang Kai-shek in 1934, and later became a lodging for Mao Zedong (by Yin Xixiang)
5. The No. 175 villa where Mao Zedong once lived (by Chen Hong)
6. A German-style villa (by Yin Xixiang)



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The Splendour and Charm of *Henan Folk Dance*

To most people, the Hans are by no means born singers or dancers, and Henan Province, believed to be the cradle of the Chinese civilization, is not a land of song and dance either. But according to records in one of the country's earliest tortoise-shell scriptures, "The people of Shang (present-day Shangqiu, Henan Province) knew how to dance." At the time dance served a specific purpose in daily life, particularly at times of harvest and war. For example, the sorcerer's and ritual dances. Henan is home to numerous famous dancers who have left a rich repertoire of dances, such as *Yayue* of the Western Zhou Dynasty (c. 11th century-770 B.C.); *Xinyue* of the Spring and Autumn Period (770-476 B.C.) and the Warring States Period (475-221 B.C.); as well as "hundred entertainments" including wrestling and acrobatics during the Qin (221-207 B.C.) and Han (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) dynasties; *Jiyue* and religious dancing which appeared during the period that spanned the Wei (220-265), Jin (265-420) and Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589); *Yanyue* which was all the rage during the Sui (581-618)



and Tang (618-907) dynasties, *Duiwu* and *Wudui* of the Song Dynasty (960-1279).

Primitive simplicity is a hallmark of the Henan folk dance, which draws its inspiration from fables and myths that originated from life in China's deepest past. The various forms of dragon and phoenix dance are intimately associated with totemism from their

ancestors, and some Henan folk dances are designed to act out an ancient story or anecdote. The unique *Paoweizi* ("displaying the curtains"), which was first choreographed to pay homage to the imperial concubine of King Huan of the State of Qi, is still popular in Tangyin County and its vicinity. The *Zhuma* (dancing by riding bamboo bobbyhorses), is popular among farmers in Dancheng where, invariably, field dancers who are dressed as leaders of the Wagang Peasant Uprising during the twilight years of the Sui Dynasty, flourish a bamboo stick in hand and impersonate the mannerisms of these heroes, whipping and spurring their horses to then charge into the battlefield to the constant tooting of conches.

The Henan school of dance allows participants to twirl, strut and prowl in an energetic and unrestrained body lan-



1. Kaifeng: drum-beating dancers in an impressive military formation
2. "Stubborn Donkeys", a kind of dance that can be seen in Xiping County.
3. Nanyang and Zhechuan counties and its vicinity: "Silk carp frolicking with lotus flowers"
4. Sanmenxia: "Tonsured Monk with a Lantern Poised on His Head"





guage which purports to bring out the masculine vitality that is reflected in the character of men of Henan. The dance floor is often of an impressive size, sometimes occupying an entire road section or square to accommodate hundreds or even thousands of participants. Long before a dance gets under way people are already beating gongs and cymbals, blowing suona horns or simply whistling — this is to clear the way for the dancers. Movements are often difficult. For stilt-dancing, a pole no shorter than two metres is allowed. In the lion dance, performers are required to walk across what is known as the "heavenly bridge", while manoeuvring benches (which combine to form the "dragon's" body) in their hands so that the "dragon" can be made to gyrate in a series of gigantic swirls. For such dances as "displaying the curtains", "Anyang battle drums" and "Suiping brass instruments", dancers are deployed as if two armies are fighting it out in the battlefield.

Superb skills are another characteristic of the Henan school of dance, and some of them have become part and parcel of local theatrical traditions. In stilt walking, or folk dances in which a model boat is used as the stage prop, participants are cast as characters just as they would be for local opera. Acrobatics has also found its way into the Henan dance. For example in the lion and lantern dance, pole-climbing, and the mounting of an easy chair takes place; the actors invariably seek to balance themselves on a sort of fulcrum in the air. The dramatic effect of such a stunt seldom fails to draw oohing and aahing from onlookers. Martial arts, too, have been incorporated into the Henan folk dance. For instance, as a warrior brandishes a broad sword, steel halberd or a nine-section cudgel against the "lion", they use movements borrowed from dual wrestling in Chinese martial arts. Some dances are wholesale adaptations of martial art techniques.


Henan folk dance features more

than 80 varieties in ten genres: 1) *yangko* dance; 2) dancing while beating flower-drums or brass percussion instruments; 3) lantern dance, with players flourishing lanterns in dragon, flower, fish or cloud patterns; 4) allegorical animal dance, with dancers dressed up as tigers, buffaloes, donkeys or butterflies; 5) stilt dance; 6) flower-drum dance designed to act out a certain play; 7) masques, with players wearing paper or wooden masks, the most popular forms being oversized baby-face and double-faced masks; 8) dance with a stage prop, ranging from handkerchiefs to dragon lanterns — there are bigger props such as vehicles, boats and sedan chairs; 9) martial art stunts and dances in military formation, the former being a one-man act such as a "dual between two ghosts" and "double-headed man" while the latter is performed with pomp and ceremony; 10) ritualistic dances for occasions like temple fairs and sacrificial ceremonies such as "five ghosts spiriting away a man surnamed





Liu" and "god-dispelling road", which reflects ancient customs to exorcise evil spirits.

Several millennia have passed, yet folk dance in Henan remains alive and kicking. Despite the fact that karaoke and international ballroom dancing have become the latest fad, the Henan school of dance has shown no sign of a decline. With the passage of time, people tend to yearn for the good old days, and that is why Henan folk dance will regain its past glory. 

Translated by Ling Yuan

Photos by Jiang Jian

Article by Zhang Jianying

1. Huaxian County: Lotus Flower
Lantern Dance

2. Huaxian County: Walking on stilts

3. Nanyang and Zhechuan counties:
Double-faced dancers





Zhang Baohua's Finger Paintings

Zhang Baohua's inspiration for finger painting first came from the image of the dog.

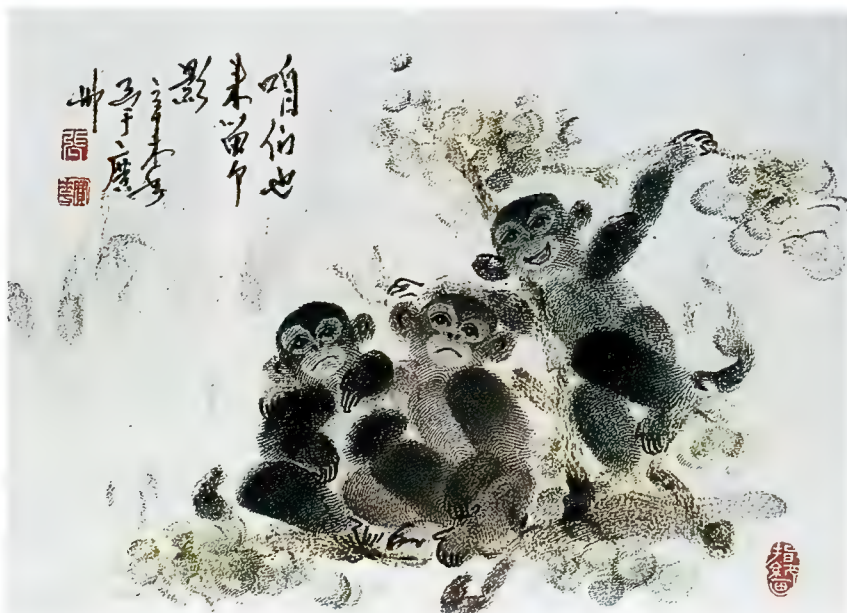
In 1988, Zhang Baohua was made deputy principal of the middle school for the children of the workers and staff of the Hard Alloy Factory in Zhuzhou, Hunan Province, and was in charge of a work-study programme. To cover the needs of the market, he adopted an original approach by running a pug-dog farm. He fed and trained the dogs every day and gradually he began to take a liking to dogs and started to paint them. In his spare time he drew dogs on



a blackboard and used Xuan paper, but no matter how hard he worked, he could not bring out fully the naive features of the downy pug-dog. Suddenly one day when he was out walking one of his dogs it dawned on him that the many parts of the dog's body such as the ears, head and buttocks were all in ellipse. The loops and whorls on people's fingers were also in ellipse and down-like. So he got the idea of painting the pug-dog with his fin-

gers. He ran back home and painted 39 pug-dogs with his fingers in one breath. Each of the painted dogs was life-like on

the paper. From then on, Zhang Baohua has entered a paradise of finger painting and has painted every day, his painting techniques and skill improving daily. Finger painting is adaptable to presenting many subjects, especially the down and hair of many birds and animals. But because Zhang Baohua has cherished his deep, profound feelings for his dogs, observing them to the minutest detail and painted them so very often, he has become expert in painting dogs, and developed many techniques for his finger painting. For example, he has innovated eight different techniques: the pressing method with level finger to paint the ear; the turning method with level finger to paint the buttock; the light pressing method with side finger to paint the mouth; the rolling method with upright finger to paint the legs; the point pressing method with fingertip to paint the feet; the rolling pulling method with upright finger to paint the tail; the rolling printing method with the whole finger to paint the hair; the outlining method to sketch the eyes, mouth, nose and paws. He can demonstrate the eight different techniques within two minutes, and audiences feel very surprised watching him demonstrate. He can finish a large painting such as "A Hundred Dogs" in two hours.





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On September 1, 1991, Zhang Baohua held an art exhibition at the China Art Gallery in Beijing, at which he displayed over 200 finger paintings. In December 1991, he was invited to go to Guangzhou to take part in "China Fair of One Hundred Wonders". His consummate demonstration won warm applause from the audiences, both Chinese and foreign. A Canadian gentleman wrote him a letter saying: "I would like to find an overseas market for your finger paintings. I am going to set up a company soon and believe our cooperation will have a bright future."

Translated by Xiong Zhenru
Photos & Text by Zhu Xu

1. Going to school
2. Monkeys
3. Dogs
4. Loquat and ducks
5. Zhang Baohua painting with his finger

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Music Played by The Earth

It happens not necessarily only on famous mountains or well-known landscapes but sometimes it happens on an ordinary mount, a land, or a field, I am talking about a scene which makes the heart leap. With the cycle of seasons and the magical changes of sunshine, the earth is forever playing music — light, colours and shapes being its notes.

The jade green of summer days, or a crimson autumn — both possess a breath-

taking beauty. And then there are fields in early spring, wearing patches of lingering frost like a suit of silvery armour. Or the last glow of evening on a wildness may be the most brilliant sunshine of the day!

These pleasant movements in the music may lie inaudible in nature, only to be sensed, felt and enjoyed by the "observant" and the "understanding".

Only sensitive people have an affinity with this type of music.

e

Translated by Li Guoqing

Text by Lian He



N E W C O S T U M E O F T H E E A R T H

How soft those fingers of the wind.
Their gentle touch leaves the earth
clothed in various shades of green.
They enjoy the vital lives blooming in
silence.

(Photo by Zhang Jie in Dashanbao Township, Zhaotong, Yunnan)



T H E S I L V E R Y A R M O U R

Despite the lingering chill of early spring, in the cloches of plastic film, luxuriant vegetables enjoy agreeable weather, vying to sing and dance on limited productive soil.



T H E L A S T G L O R Y

Trees stand aloof in the peaceful
autumn against the slanting sunshine.
What heart-rending beauty at this
moment, despite the on-coming abys-
mal night.

(Photo by Zhang Ye on Weichang, Chengde District, Hebei)



C R I M S O N W I L D E R N E S S I N A U T U M N

Dyed crimson, the wilderness in
autumn seems to relate its prime
time; patches of golden yellow are
the drumsticks, drumming out a
strong and melodious tune.

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L I G H T S F O R R E D E E M I N G T H E L O S T S O U L S

The River Lantern Festival

at the
Ancient Ferry in Shanxi





The ancient ferry outside the West Gate of Hequ County town in Shanxi Province is the only pass into northern Shanxi, Shaanxi and Inner Mongolia, and was once the place from which refugees fled from famine to other parts of the country.

Close to the ancient ferry of the Yellow River stands a River God Temple built in 1751 in the Qing Dynasty. Each year on the second day of the first month, the 18th day of the third month and the 15th day of the seventh month of the lunar calendar, there is a ceremonial sacrifice offered to the River God to ensure the safety of river navigation. But the temple fair on the 15th day of the seventh month is the grandest. Operas are played in the River God Temple for three consecutive days and at night hundreds of floating lanterns are placed on the river water to redeem the lost souls of people who have died in the river. Thus the three-day temple fair is also called the River Lantern Festival.

On the 15th day of the seventh lunar month, I left my hotel in Hequ County at five o'clock in the morning for the River God Temple. The halls in the temple were already brightly lit up with burning candles. People entered the temple gate and hurried to the main hall, in which they offered sacrifices to the King of Dayu. Most of their offerings were left in the main hall and, after kowtowing and offering incense in front of the incense-burner, firecrackers were set off. After that they went to worship the different gods in the other halls.

At nine o'clock, plays were beginning on the stage and people were pouring into the open space through the West Gate. The area, which was not so large, had soon become packed with people. Hequ has been known for its folk songs and its people's love of music from as early as the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). This is proved by the poetic verses written at that time. From every household came the sound of

1. During the River Lantern Festival, operas are performed for three consecutive days.
2. The Yellow River and the ancient opera stage in the setting sun
3. Hequ people also paste the paintings from their home onto the walls of the River God Temple.
4. Every anteroom of the River God Temple houses a god.
5. After the all lanterns are placed on the river, another set of night performances begin.

stringed music and new songs and notes being learned. Both children and elders alike are song-lovers.

While the stage was busy with the change of plays, steamed ferry boats, decorated with coloured flags, and ancient-style small wooden boats were ferrying people to the centre of the Yellow River for pleasure.

After six in the evening, I went to the streets and found that the Huanghe Avenue was already so packed with peo-



ple they could hardly move around. Suddenly two large tents came into sight on the opposite side of the street. Music was playing very loud in order to attract customers. An open-air theatre was performing a Shanxi opera *Mu Guiying Commanding Troops* played by well-known actors and actresses. The square in front of the stage became a sea of people. The open spaces along the street were neatly parked with numerous bicycles and motorbikes.

In the setting sun, the performances continued on the brightly-lit riverside stages, while two large red lanterns on the temple flag pole shone high in the air like the eyes of a dragon.

At about 8:30 p.m., flames lit up the River God Temple, and after a few firecrackers the music started. People


holding torches ran out of the temple, breaking through the crowds in the square. The music band, torches, boatmen and the monks were moving towards the ferry. They all got on board a boat and sailed upstream to the accompaniment of music. I got into a small boat and followed.

The boat placing the lanterns on the river stopped at the centre of the Yellow River, two kilometres away from the ferry and the music suddenly ceased. Two boatmen jumped into two small boats which were fastened to the tail of the main boat and rowed 20 to 30 metres away and cast anchor, waiting for orders. An old man on the main boat commanded the ceremony. He first placed a river lantern onto the water in order to find the main current

of the river, and then the boatmen bustled around to cast the anchor. The musicians also laid down their instruments to help put the river lanterns on deck. Some poured oil into the lanterns and others lit them with candles. Another man was helping the old commander to place the lanterns one after another on the water. Somebody shouted every now and then: "Be quick. Don't stop or the link will be broken and it won't look nice!"

At that moment, several torches lit up, bathing the whole boat in bright red. Cheers and whistles resounded on the banks, and fireworks flew into the sky, breaking into colourful flowers. The boatmen on the smaller boats also set off their fireworks. The colours of the lights over the river changed all the time, from red to blue, to green, to yellow, for what seemed like ages.

The river lanterns placed on the water were washed downstream by the current. A floating dragon of lanterns was formed on the river, bobbing up and down, and moving in the darkness. In about 20 minutes, all 365 lanterns had been placed onto the water. Together with the boatmen, we stood on the deck quietly watching the disappearing lanterns.

This lasted for quite a while until suddenly a boatman shouted cheerily: "Wonderful!" All the boatmen and musicians woke up as if from a dream, pulled up anchor, started the engine and sailed back. The musicians once again took up their instruments, blowing trumpets and beating drums to celebrate their success. 

Translated by M. Q.
Photos & Article by Shan Xiaogang



1. Hordes of people on the banks of the Yellow River waiting to see the river lanterns

2. Viewing the Yellow River from the West Gate of Hequ County town — the river looks wider and the sky higher.

3. Fireworks set off from the boats and banks of the river

4. The river lanterns floating away in the current of the Yellow River

5. Mr. Zhao, an old artisan, specializes in making river lanterns.





Westerners *on* *in* Tour China

Text by Jun Feng



WINE ON TRICYCLE

(Qufu, Shandong)
Photo by Xu Zhiguo

Clad in a straw hat, he rides this tricycle to tour the Mansion of Confucius. How can he resist the temptation of this famous rice wine? Probably he will pick up some of the teachings of Confucius too.



RETURN TO CHILDHOOD

(The Great Wall at Badaling, Beijing)
Photo by Gao Tianxi

Down the Great Wall, kindled by a childlike fancy, I've "acted the hero", as the popular saying goes. Now, clad in a tiger-hat, the headwear popular in northern China, I feel like a young boy again.

THE STORY FROM BEHIND

(Qufu, Shandong)
Photo by Hou Heliang

During the ceremony celebrating the birthday of Confucius, people are clad in long Chinese silk gowns. Most photographers' shots are more or less the same. Look at this guy shooting the highly patterned characteristic gowns from the back.

Indeed, a different approach produces novelty.





YIN YANG CAFE

(Dali, Yunnan)

Photo by Liu Jianhua

The unfurled curtain, patterned with the Eight Trigrams, blocks the table and coffee pot from view, revealing only the signboard and an aroma of coffee.

The Bai girl and foreign lad smile this way, making a delightful signboard for this cafe.



DARE-DEVILS AT THE DINNER TABLE

(Tai'an, Shandong)

Photo by Lian Haisheng

My god, scorpions are served on the menu! Oh well, when in Rome, do as the Romans do. Although nervous, we manage a big smile while acting the part of dare-devils.



CHINESE SNACKS

(Urümqi, Xinjiang)

Photo by Song Shijing

Clad in a Qing-style skull-cap and wearing a long, thin braid – a perfect image of a gentleman of olden times; but his brown eyes, high nose-bridge and white shirt give away his identity – a Westerner on tour in China.

Probably newly arrived in China, he is still awkward with chopsticks and when enjoying snacks, can't do without a Western beer or soda. ©

Translated by Li Guoqing

GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

(Qufu, Shandong)

Photo by Zhou Xiaoming

They have come to study tourism but, in the meantime, have they picked up some of the Confucius doctrine here, in the Kong Forest?

Look at those young people, throwing their diplomas in the air in the American way and shouting, "Mum, I have made it!"

But they have yet to be licensed to work as tourist guides.



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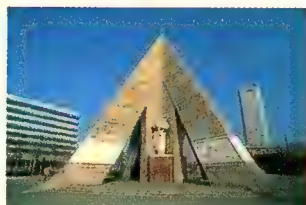
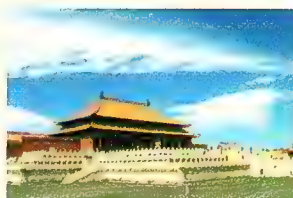
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The camel caravan in the Taklimakan Desert



Keriya People in the Taklimakan Desert

克 里 雅 人 來 自 何 方 ？



At the southeastern edge of the great Taklimakan Desert, known as the "Desert of Death", in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region lies a green corridor that extends sporadically into the depths of the desert. At the end of this corridor is a desert settlement which was first discovered by the Swedish explorer Svan Anders von Hedin on January 26, 1896, after he had travelled for 12 days into the Taklimakan Desert.

Living in this desert settlement, known as Tanguzbast Village, are herdsmen who have little contact with the outside world. Even in Xinjiang few people know about them. When they were discovered in the 1980s, people thought they were "savages" or "a primitive tribe". These herdsmen are, in fact, Keriyas. But what kind of people are they? How do they live?

To gratify my own curiosity, I joined

a desert exploration tour organized by the Xinjiang Nature Tourist Agency and travelled northward from Yutian at the foot of the Kunlun Mountains. In a jeep and a six-wheeled twin-drive tractor truck it took us less than an hour to reach the edge of the desert. We then proceeded along the right side of the green corridor, once the bed of the Keriya River but which has already become a semi-desert.

The Keriya River valley is a relatively smooth area of sandy waste. Short desert poplars could be seen as soon as we entered the riverbed, which shows that the Keriya River changed its course only a relatively short time ago. The guide told us that the authorities of Yutian County had





1. Pitching tents in the desert
2. The Keriya River in Yutian County
3. Water in the boundless desert
4. A night bonfire made by the Keriya

planned to build a paper mill here, using the rich resources of reeds on the spot.

At about five in the afternoon, we stopped among huge sand dunes. The few Germans who were travelling with us became quite excited at the sight of the desert and began to take endless shots with their camcorders and cameras.

In the evening we stopped again on a small, sandy shoal of the Keriya River, pitched tents and passed our first night in the desert.

We continued our journey at daybreak as soon as we had packed up our things. Old poplars were everywhere. The continuous sand dunes made the jeep difficult to proceed. At six o'clock, there was a sudden sandstorm which turned the sky and earth into an indistinguishable mass followed by dark rolling clouds. Some well-prepared travellers began to put on goggles and specially made masks or covered their heads with scarves.

Our vehicles eventually stopped at a poplar grove near two low brick houses. As wind blew through the grove, the poplar leaves rustled and the air was permeated with fine sand. Visibility was reduced to only a few metres and there was sand in our hair, in our ears, in our eyes and in our mouths.

After two days journey under hard conditions we finally arrived at our destination — the Keriya settlement in the desert. In the past the spot was marked as Tanguzbast Village on the map today it is Liyabuyi Township of Yutian County. Making Liyabuyi our base, during the

following few days we made exploratory trips deep into the desert on camelback.

VISITING A KERIYA FAMILY

The Keriya families living in the desert are widely scattered separated by a distance of several kilometres or, in some cases even 20 or 30 kilometres. A hundred or more families live in the depths of the desert and are widely separated. When there is a wedding or other celebration, the invitation is written on a slip of paper and passed from family to family, which usually takes a fortnight to do the rounds.

Accompanied by an interpreter, I visited a Keriya family living in a poplar and tamarisk grove. The master of the house was away herding his animals. The mistress of the house invited us in and prepared tea and a kind of mutton pancake for us. Known locally as *Somitikubaxi*, it is really delicious. The Keriya do their cooking in a shallow pit in the ground lined with fine sand. Poplar and tamarisk twigs are kindled in the pit to heat a brass pot. When the water in the pot begins to boil, the twigs in the pit are extinguished.

After making the tea, the mistress parted the hot sand at the bottom of the pit with a wooden stick and buried a pancake dough in the hot ash. The pancake was baked in about 20 minutes, diffusing a savory aroma. Called *Kubaxi*, the pancake is their staple food for all three meals of the day. As is their tea mixed with aniseed and prickly ash, said

to be good for allaying a fever and driving away a cold. I was not accustomed to the tea at first, but after a few cups I found it had a pleasant, lingering taste.

NO COWS OR DOGS

The Keriya desert people have a similar life style to the Kazak herdsmen living deep in the mountains. Both share a staple food of pancakes and tea as fresh vegetables and fruit are difficult to come by. Little rain results in little vegetation and because of erosion by wind and sand, there is practically no surface water during most of the year. The underground water has a high saline and alkaline content so only desert plants which like these conditions grow such as reeds, licorice and tamarisk. The goats and sheep herded by the Keriya people feed mainly on the leaves of reeds, poplar and tamarisk. As there are nearly 10,000 goats and sheep in the area nibbling at the leaves of these plants, the already poor local ecological environment is worsening.

The Keriya people also raise camels, horses and donkeys, which are used mainly as draught animals. Cows, dogs and other domestic animals are not kept probably because they cannot survive in the dry, hot climate of the desert.

HOME UNDER THE POPLARS

In the great Taklimakan Desert, there is a vast difference in the annual and daily temperatures. It can be 35°C at noon and 0°C at night. The temperature on the ground in summer usually stays at 40°C. The Keriya people like to build their houses under poplar trees, which not only provide them with a pleasant shade but also shelter them from wind and sand. The houses are built with poplar trunks and tamarisk branches, which



are tied together like a cage. Some cover the walls and roof with mud from the riverbed others simply cover the roof with poplar branches. The inside of the house is partitioned with more poplar branches usually into two rooms, the inner room for sleeping and the outer room for cooking. Many families leave an opening between the walls and the roof for ventilation and lighting. The doors of some of the houses are made with hollowed poplar trunks split in the middle. No bricks, tiles, lime or cement are used at all.

"DESERT GINSENG"

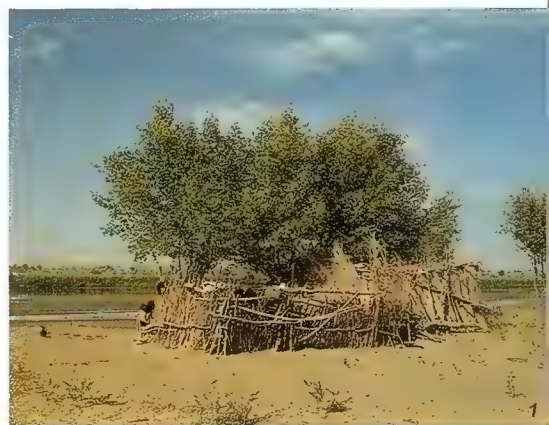
Water is the life spring of the desert. The Keriya is not only a seasonal river but by the time it flows to the Keriya settlement, the waters of the river are greatly reduced or have disappeared completely as a result of evaporation and seepage. As there is no surface water in most areas, the local people dig wells into the riverbed to a depth of about two metres to obtain drinking water for both man and animals. But the water is salinized and alkalized and so it tastes bitter in the mouth.

One day, a camel herder took us on a visit to his home. On the way we found a grove of short tamarisks among the undulating sand dunes. The herder told us to stop as he climbed a dune and started to dig with his hands. In a moment he dug up four or five brownish black objects about 20-30 centimetres long and five or six centimetres in diameter, bigger than the elongated variety of eggplant. These are the precious fleshy stems of desert *cistanche*, a perennial, parasitic plant used in traditional Chinese medicine. It is sweet and pungent in taste, warm in nature, said to be good for strengthening the kidneys, increasing virility and being an effective cure for failing kidney function, lassitude, impotence and senility. It is therefore called "desert ginseng."

THE ANCIENT CITY OF KELADUN

Night in the desert is very quiet. The star-studded night sky was far more enchanting than the grey desert sky of daytime.

The next day we proceeded to the ruins of the ancient city of Keladun, meaning "black sand dunes", are located 300 kilometres from the county seat of Yutian. The city was part of the ancient State of Yumi and eventually buried in the sand. The city resembled a square castle, 60 metres long on each side. The



1. Some Keriya live in simple, crude houses.

2. A Keriya woman and her child

3. A Keriya family

4. The Keriya people are used to life in the desert and simple food.





1. A Keriya camel herder
2. Ruins of the ancient city of Keladun meaning "black sand dunes"
3. Drawing bitter water from a well

city walls were built with rammed earth and alternating layers of tree branches. From the wooden piles standing in the sand, we could tell that they were the remains of a staircase in a temple-like building. There were remains of doors, walls and wall-paintings among the ruins.

In the southwestern part of the city were six groups of buildings and the site of ancient kilns. Archaeologists had found a considerable number of pottery shards with sand mixed into the clay, as well as bronze coins. From the artifacts unearthed from the ancient tombs in the locality, archaeologists concluded that the inhabitants of the city were active during the period of the Han (206 B.C.-A.D. 220) and the Southern and Northern Dynasties (420-589) and that the city was one of several dozens of small cities of the State of Yutian which have gradually been reduced to ruins by the desert. Altogether more than 20 similar ruins of small ancient cities have been discovered in the great Taklimakan Desert.

THE ORIGIN OF THE KERIYA PEOPLE

Among the many ethnic minorities in Xinjiang, the Keriya people live in the harshest surroundings. This, however, does not prevent them loving and remaining on their native soil.

Cut off from the outside world, the Keriya people lag far behind in their cultural and material development. The already sparse vegetation in the desert is continually being destroyed by over-herding. As the local ecological conditions worsen, specialists and scholars suggest that some of the local people and their animals be moved away to preserve this "green corridor", which is rarely seen anywhere else in the world. But the Keriya people are unwilling to leave their native soil because they are accustomed to their life in the desert.

From where did the Keriya people come? Some scholars believe that they are descendants of the Gug people. According to legend, the city and Kingdom of Gug was destroyed. A small number of the Gug people crossed the Kunlun Mountains and settled in the Keriya River valley, where they reclaimed land, hunted and herded animals to live a self-sufficient life until today. Other scholars, however, maintain that the Keriya people are descendants of the Uygur people from Yutian because they are identical in their facial features, clothing, spoken and written language, religious beliefs, customs and habits. At the end of our tour of investigation, most of us agreed with the latter view. However this puzzle of both history and present-day reality, however, has to be further studied by specialists and scholars before a final conclusion can be made.

Translated by
Tang Bowen
Photos & Article
by Song Shijing





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The Deep Quiet West Mountain *in* Guiping

At the mention of scenic spots in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, people immediately think of Guilin but in fact Guangxi has many other beautiful mountains and rivers. A good example is the West Mountain 2.5 kilometres west of Guiping City, which is a national sacred place for sightseeing equally as attractive and famous as Guilin. Since ancient times, Guiping's West Mountain has been a special place for sightseeing and a diversion renowned for its deep forests, beautiful trees, sweet spring water, grotesquely-shaped rocks, fragrant tea leaves and Buddhist temples as well as many other special attractions.

IMPERIAL GIANT PINE TREES

Walking westward along the broad Guiping Street and passing through the verdant forest of sugar cane, you arrive at the foot of the West Mountain. Beside



a bridge newly built in ancient style there lies an observation tower called Autumn Willow Tower. Under the bridge the clear water of a stream runs gurgling by, and on the banks willow branches hang like threads swinging in the breeze. If you look, you will find two giant ancient banyan trees, their trunks so thick that five people can just about get their arms around them and their leaves are the size of a canopy. They compliment a temple gate creating the shape of a memorial archway. Walking from here to the West

Mountain is like traversing a cool world with towering ancient trees on four sides and patches of the blue sky can be glimpsed through the leaves. It is said that 98 per cent of the West Mountain is covered by woods. Walking slowly along the mountain path you will soon find the field of vision suddenly open up on the right hand side. Here lies the West Mountain Reservoir with a water surface of over six hectares. Also known as the East Lake, the reservoir has a natural islet at its centre, which looks like a green

lotus leaf growing in the water. The islet is overgrown with clumps of green pine trees and large patches of plants and flowers. Not far from the East Lake there is a large tract of huge ancient pine trees, they are all over 300 years old. Among them, a few giant ones with twisted branches are particularly eye-catching. Their bark has cracked open looking like a stack of copper coins creating the illusion of fish scales. And so these pine trees are called "Dragon Scale Pines". Legend has it that these cracked barks were caused by Emperor Qianlong (r. 1736-1795) of the Qing Dynasty when he hung his imperial robes on the trees on his way to tour southern China.

REVERED BUDDHIST NUN

Amidst the sougning of the wind through the pines you walk past the Lianxi Bridge to climb the mountain upon stone steps. About 120 metres up the mountain two ancient buildings hidden in deep woods come into sight. The first building is called Lord Li Temple built at the end of the Tang Dynasty (618-907), the temple is the oldest building existing in Guiping. Lord Li's real name was Li Mingyuan, a native of Shandong in the Tang Dynasty. His admiration of the beautiful scenery of the West Mountain led him to resign and he came here to live in seclusion. After he died, people built this temple and statue to worship and commemorate him for his good administrations.

Behind the Lord Li Temple is a nunnery with red pillars and gates. It lies beside a huge mango tree with fruits hanging heavy from its branches. This is the famous temple in the West Mountain, called Xishi (Stone Washing) Nunnery or the Lower Temple. Built in 1646, the nunnery is more than 300 years old.

The Stone Washing Nunnery is completely concealed by the shade of towering green trees and is very cool even in



1. From the Nine Dragon Tower at the top of the West Mountain there is a panoramic view of Guiping City and the Qianjiang and Yujiang rivers at the foot of the mountain (by Chen Guang).
2. Nuns and believers gather in the famous Buddhist forest of the West Mountain (by Chen Guang)
3. The Longhua Temple, first built in the Song Dynasty, was completely renovated in the mid-1980s (by Chen Guang).



hot summer. Shafts of sunlight penetrate through the branches and leaves of the tall trees, while curls of smoke rise up from incense burners into the sky. The rhythmical beating of hollow wooden blocks and the chanting of scriptures are heard from the nunnery. The whole place is permeated with the scent of sandalwood.

Renovated and re-opened in 1983, the Stone Washing Nunnery has red walls, yellow tile roofs, red lacquer pillars, carved beams and painted rafters, looking very antique and solemn. In the central hall the statue of Maitreya, stripped to the waist, is worshipped while in the rear hall, or the Mahavira Hall, are enshrined nine Buddhist statues including those of Sakyamuni, Goddess of Mercy, Ksitigarbha, Manjusri and Samantabhadra. All the Buddhas look dignified and awesome.

The Stone Washing Nunnery produced many excellent nuns over the past dynasties. Master Kuan Neng, a council member of the standing committee of the Buddhist Association, who died in 1989, was one of them. She enjoyed a ripe age of 95. From her cremains were discovered three sarari (Buddhist relics) and 48 Buddhist beads. Reportedly she was the world's first nun who was found with Buddhist relics in her cremains. In the tea garden behind the Stone Washing Nunnery a pagoda has been built in commemoration of her. The pagoda is carved with many inscriptions by Buddhist world masters in praise of Master Kuan Neng, and has drawn many pilgrims to it.

BUDDHIST FOREST

Behind the Stone Washing Nunnery is a stone footpath, which is the deepest and most winding path in the West Mountain, known as Biyun Stone Steps. On either side of the path are ancient pines, banyans, camphors and trifoliate jewelvines, which form various tent-like coverings. Pools and painted towers are dotted here and there. It makes people feel like they are in another world.

In the forest beside the deep path lies another ancient temple, called Longhua Temple and because it lies above the Stone Washing Nunnery, it is also called the Upper Temple. Built at the beginning of the Song Dynasty, the temple is more than 1,000 years old.

The Longhua Temple, thoroughly renovated in the mid-1980s, lies in a three-layer pattern, with the Lokapala Hall at the front, the Guanyin Hall in the middle, and the Mahavira Hall at the rear, flanked by the Bell Tower, the Drum Tower, living quarters and dining halls. Worshipped in the temple are 32 Buddhist statues of different sizes, carved exquisitely out of fragrant camphor wood. The statue of Sakyamuni in the Mahavira Hall was donated by Great Master Jue Guang, president of the Buddhist Association in Hong Kong.

Because of the Longhua Temple and the Stone Washing Nunnery, the West Mountain has, since long ago, been known as one of the 13 big Buddhist forests in China, where Buddhist activities have been rigorous in recent years. On New Year's Day and other festivals, especially on Guanyin's birthday on the



19th day of the second lunar month and on Sakyamuni's birthday on the eighth day of the fourth month, big religious activities are held, drawing pilgrims from all parts of the country to pay their respects to these Buddhas.


TANG-DYNASTY TEA

After visiting the Lower and Upper Temples, tourists can enjoy the West Mountain Tea, one of the famous teas in China at the teahouse nearby. Habitually, this has become an important part of any programme touring the West Mountain. It is said that the West Mountain Tea originated in the Tang Dynasty, first planted by eminent monks, becoming famous during the Ming Dynasty. The tea provided by the West Mountain Teahouse is made with water from the famous Milk Spring. Naturally, it is no ordinary taste.

Ascending the mountain from the Longhua Temple, you will see along the way the Zhongshan Flying Pavilion in commemoration of Dr Sun Yat-sen, the Old Yao Cliff where Prefect Yao Tan of the Song Dynasty and monks often gathered, the Shiyin Cave where the official Li Mingyuan of the Tang Dynasty lived in seclusion, and many other attractions. At the end of the 120-step "Way to Heaven" there is a path leading directly to the Guanyin Precipice, on top of which is a tower called Chaoyang Tower which has a good panoramic view. If you go farther ahead past the plank road and the narrow Yixiantian Pass, which only allows one person to pass by sideways at a time, you reach the summit of the West Mountain.

The West Mountain's highest peak is 600 metres above sea level. At its top is a two-storey tower called the Nine Dragon Tower, from where visitors can watch the sunrise and overlook Guiping City and surrounding scenery.



Undulating mountains loom on the horizon. The vast Xunjiang Plain lies in the distance, with the Yujiang and the Qianjiang rivers running along the southern and northern sides of the West Mountain to Guiping City, where they join together to form the Xunjiang River to flow east. When night unfolds, the evening lights of the city come on, the lights of fishing boats dot the surface of the river, fireflies drift in the mountain valleys and the moon and stars glitter in the sky.... By now people would wonder if they are aloof from the earth. 

Translated by Xiong Zhenru

Article by Shu Sheng

1. The nuns of the Stone Washing Nunnery in the West Mountain take physical labour as a kind of practice in Buddhism. The Qipan Tea they produce is considered one of the best in China (by Jiang Zhenzong).

2. Great Master Jue Guang, president of the Buddhist Association in Hong Kong, was once the abbot of the Longhua Temple of the West Mountain (by Chen Guang).

3. The Stone Washing Nunnery hidden in green woods (by Jiang Zhenzong)

4. The Upper and Lower Temples of the West Mountain receive many worshippers all year round (by Chen Guang).

5. Planting tea is the main source of income for all temples in the West Mountain (by Jiang Zhenzong).





Enjoying Tea at Panxi Restaurant

On the beautiful Pantang Lake, Guangzhou, this restaurant is built in a classical garden style.

A unique building together with its beautiful landscape together with its exquisite, delicious *dim sum* have helped to spread the name of this restaurant afar. "Let's go to Panxi Restaurant for breakfast" is a phrase often heard among Guangzhou people and very day, more than 10,000 people come to visit.

Mrs. Marcos, the wife of the ex-president of the Philippines, wrote the word "wonderful" three times in the visitor's book after a memorable meal. She took some of her most favourite *dim sum* back to Manila.

The *dim sum* not only look good but are served in 50 to 60 varieties each day. Every week new inventions come out. Up to now, the restaurant has over 1,000 varieties on their list. Among them, the

most famous are "Thousand-Layer Bird Meat", "Transparent Shrimp", "Jade Green Rabbit Dumpling", "Crispy Three Colour Flour Roll",



3

"Bantang Water Chestnut Cake", "Five Colour Milk Jelly", and "Xishan Milk Dumpling".

Translated by Li Guoqing
Photos by Guang Hui
Text by Tian Fu



1. A classical building with fine and delicious delicacies
2. It is an ideal place for ordinary people to have breakfast.
3. "Snow Pear"
4. Delicious "dim sum" served at the public hall are reasonably priced.
5. How could we eat these beautiful works of art?
6. "The Hedgehog"
7. "Fruit of Longevity from Lingnan"
8. "The Turtle of Longevity"



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洋溪酒家

Address: 151 Longjin Road West, Guangzhou

Tel: 8815718, 8817038, 8815955

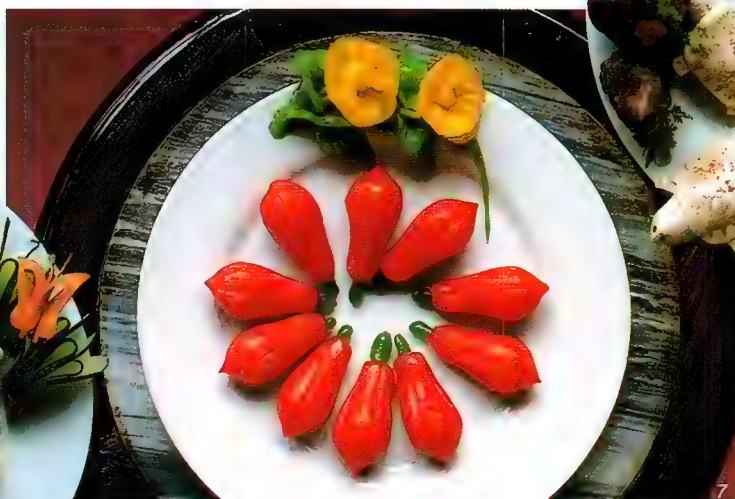
Fax: 8728229

Transportation:

Take the number 34 trolley bus and get off at Liwanhu Station. The taxi fare is about 20 yuan.



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H O T S P R I N G S A T H A L U N A R X A N

Hot, Bubbling **Springs** *for* **Celestial Beings**



In ancient times, Halun Arxan in Inner Mongolia was strategically situated among a network of caravan routes. Long before the Mongols conquered China and founded the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), Genghis Khan (1162-1227) also had his headquarters based somewhere to the west of Halun Arxan. During the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), it was the starting point of a road which conducted to Ulanhot by way of Horen, and it was also in the middle of the Dolun-Ulanhot route. Today, the Ulanhot-Hailar Highway runs through Halun Arxan to connect with the highway web in northeast China. The Dujuan Tourist Train provides regular passenger services between Baicheng in Jilin Province and Halun Arxan via Ulanhot. Ulanhot Airport and Baicheng Railway Station are connected to all parts of the country.

FABLE OF THE HOT SPRINGS

I embarked on the Dujuan Tourist Train in Ulanhot and began my trip to Halun Arxan. As the train sped along through an endless stretch of mountain forests, I found myself among a variety of passengers: tourists going to Halun Arxan for sightseeing or taking the therapeutic baths in the hot springs, as well as timber workers and mountain people. Sitting next to me was an exuberant old man on his way to take the therapeutic baths. He gave me a brief rundown of the history of the hot springs at Halun Arxan.

In Mongolian the name Halun Arxan means "Miraculous Hot Spring". Legend has it that after Genghis Khan unified all the Mongol tribes under his rule, he opened up the region between the Greater Hinggan Mountains and the Hulun Lake as his rear area, so that his soldiers could take a respite and build up their strength. However, incessant war had taken a heavy toll on his army, and many of his soldiers were wounded or sick from fatigue. As a worried Genghis was scratching his head for a way to handle the situation, Batar, a celebrated Hinggan hunter, came to report that he had discovered a cluster of "miraculous Springs" in the virgin forests of the Greater Hinggan Mountains.

The previous day Batar had shot a sika deer, which immediately fled into the mountains. As the hunter followed he observed the deer stopped by a spring, drank the water and then licked its



wound. In this way the deer's bleeding stopped and, completely recovered, it quickly made its way into the depths of the forest. This had made Batar believe that there was something magical about the water from the spring. He had tasted the water and had immediately felt refreshed. Soaking his arthritic legs in the water, he felt greatly relieved.

The Khan was delighted at the report and he immediately marched his army to the place. For a time Halun Arxan was bustling with activity. The soldiers washed themselves with the hot

1. Herdsmen living on the vast green grassland of Halun Arxan
2. Clusters of mineral springs at Mount Arxan
3. Mountainscape of Mount Arxan



spring water and become revived quickly. In gratitude, they nicknamed the hot springs as being sources of "holy" and "life-giving" water. Soon its good name spread far and wide. From afar herdsmen arrived in a stream on horseback or in horse-drawn carts, and new settlements sprung up one after another. As the settlers were mostly religious followers, they bedecked nearby mountaintops with colourful ribbons and streamers inscribed with holy words. Armymen and civilians shared the water from the springs, and in between therapeutic baths in the pools, they went hunting in the forests. Those soldiers who had recovered from the therapy fought back in the battlefields.

In 1227, before Genghis Khan could complete his conquer of the Western Xia (1038-1227), in part of today's Inner Mongolia and Gansu, the Khan died. His children kept his death absolutely secret, and so strong was their belief in the springs that they drove his remains in a curtained hearse all the way to the dense forests of Halun Arxan, hoping that the "life-giving water" could bring him back to life....

TONIC FOR THE HUMAN BODY

At a whistle horn, the train pulled into Halun Arxan Railway Station, a two-storey wooden affair in Japanese architectural style. The old man from Horqin took me down the street that runs by the station to the Halun Arxan Sanatorium.

The hot springs are clustered on a narrow stretch of wet grassland. Water gushes out of 48 holes which spread from south to north in two groups, and the temperature of the water goes up accordingly, temperatures standing at 1.5°C at the southernmost spring and increasing until it reaches the highest at the northernmost hole at 48.5°C. Some springs are only 0.3 metre apart, but their temperature difference is as large as 14°C.

I stopped by a cold spring in front of a Mongolian yurt, and scooping a handful of water into my mouth I found it very refreshing. The water looked clean, transparent and colourless with no sediment at the bottom. Containing a good variety of trace elements, it helps strengthen the bones, quicken cell regeneration and increase the human body's immunity. It is also effective in preventing cancer and

1. Collecting edible wild herbs in a mountain forest
2. Mount Arxan enshrouded in clouds
3. The mountain forest teems with mushrooms.
4. Marmots found in the mountain

aging. The tiny trickles from the 48 springs converge in the centre of the town and then flow past numerous houses. The scene recalls the landscape south of the Yangtse River which is criss-crossed by rivers and studded by bridges and residential houses. The local people have been drinking the water through the generations, and so far not a single case of cancer has been reported among them. Their life expectancy is much higher than in surrounding areas. A modern bottling factory has been built there so that the mineral water can be shipped out to benefit more people.

TIANCHI AND AZALEA LAKES

The following day I caught a train which took me to Yirshi 17 kilometres away. From there I boarded a narrow-gauged train for a trip to the depth of the Greater Hinggan Mountains. As the train chugged northeast and 74 kilometres later I reached Lake Tianchi, which was formed some one million years ago as a result of volcanic eruptions. The lake is the third highest among China's six highland lakes at an altitude of 1,322 metres above sea level. It is butted up against an imposing range of larch- and white birch-covered mountains. A walking stick came in very handy for the climb up the mountain, along a narrow footpath which winds its way through a timberland. As we stopped on our track for a breather, dogs started barking. Two girls emerged from behind a cluster of white birch trees. They were on their way uphill to pick mushrooms.

The lake takes the shape of an immense wash basin which covers a space of 31 hectares. The shore is covered by moss so thick that strolling on it one has the feeling of walking on a huge bed mattress! The water is clean and the lake never dries up even in the worse dry spell. It never overflows its banks either, even during the longest rainy season. In the distance mists rose opaque over the mountains, eddying and rolling



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FOR YOUR REFERENCE



Halun Arxan is situated in the frigid zone of Inner Mongolia, and its continental monsoon climate is characterized by long cold winters; windy, dry springs; and moist summers and autumns. Barometric pressure is relatively low and temperatures comparatively high. Average annual temperatures stand at -3.2°C , with the lowest at -34.1°C in January and February and the highest at 31°C in July and August. Annual precipitation averages 447.9 mm, and rainfall is concentrated in the period July-September. Mosquito-dispelling agent and rain gear are indispensable

for travellers in summer and autumn. Because of the striking differences in temperature between day and night, cotton-padded quilts are needed for those staying overnight in the forest areas — and certainly local hotels have prepared enough of them. Those who are weak should bring along more suitable clothing so that they won't catch cold at night.

Local delicacies include bear's paw, elk-nose, Feilong bird and monkey-headed mushroom. Other delicacies include cold water carp, fiddlehead, adzuki bean and pine nuts.

The Halun Arxan-Azalea Lake Highway, which opened to traffic in July 1995, has made things more convenient for tourists. A traveller may fly from Beijing to Ulanhot and then switch to train for a trip to Halun Arxan. Xizhimen Railway Station of Beijing operates trains between the capital and Baicheng where tourists can catch the Dujuan Tourist Train for a visit to Halun Arxan. Room service at

the guesthouse affiliated with the Northeast China Power Administration includes baths with water pumped directly from the hot springs. Other hotels include a guesthouse run by the Halun Arxan Forestry Bureau. For information, please contact the Hinggan League Tourist Bureau, phone number: (04814) 216780.

1. The railway station at Arxan Town built during Japanese occupation

2. Herdsmen bathing in the hot springs at Mount Arxan



eventually, obscuring the sun completely. Soon it began to drizzle. Not wanting to be caught in the mountains I hastily started to climb downhill, but it was too late. An earsplitting roll of thunder roared through the firmament and the downpour commenced.

Travelling on for 10 more kilometres, I arrived at the "Pond of Stone Forest". The "pond", the result of volcanic eruptions some two million years ago, is 20 kilometres long and 10 kilometres wide and is filled with lava stones in a thousand and one different shapes. What seems strange is the fact that the bed of the "pond" is crisscrossed by numerous brooks, and only the low-lying places are covered with water. Improbably, groves of larch trees, crawling pines and wintersweet grow profusely out



A clear stream on the grassland

of sheer rocks, turning the otherwise barren area into a natural botanical garden.

By noontime the train arrived at its destination, the Azalea Lake. Aptly named because of the over-grown azaleas around the lake it covers an area of 108 hectares, its waters running 2.5 metres deep and is skirted on three sides by mountains. The lakeside timberland offers well-sequestered spots where tourists can picnic.

On summer days, the lake sparkles

under the thick, lush foliage of green larch trees and white birches. Golden patches of yellow plums are intermingled with silver patches of white plums on basalt monoliths that litter the shore. Occasionally a fish can be seen popping out of the duckweed covered water surface. The tiny raft we boarded

floats about on the lake, our clothes rippling in the gentle, soothing wind.

The moon had already risen when I returned to the guesthouse in Halun Arxan. The karaoke club was astir with the bucolic, somewhat freewheeling tone of a Mongolian folk song. Only when wafts of sweet kitchen aromas drifted past my nostrils did I realize that I was absolutely famished.

Translated by Ling Yuan

Photos & Article by Guan Zhaoyun

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The Best of Han-Dynasty Stone Relief Carvings



1. This picture of acrobatics and cooking is divided into two halves. The first half portrays the various processes of killing, cutting, washing and cooking, while the bottom half shows acrobats performing all kinds of acts accompanied by musicians (unearthed in Tongshan).

2. This carving, showing a series of martial art fighters sparring with each other, is probably one of China's earliest cartoons (unearthed in Hanshan).

3. This pair of intertwining dragons are a far cry from the usual Chinese dragons. They look more like dinosaurs with their long necks and powerful legs, while their intertwining necks signify a very close relationship (unearthed in Tongshan).

4. A muscular man uprooting a tree and another carrying an ox on his shoulders. The action is exaggerated but the figures are simply drawn, while the subject matter is rather uncommon among the Han relief carvings (unearthed in Tongshan).

Han-dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D.220) stone relief carvings have been discovered all over China, but the largest and most concentrated groups were excavated in Xuzhou in Jiangsu Province, southern Shandong Province, Nanyang in Henan, central Sichuan and northwestern Shaanxi.

The best of the Xuzhou find is housed in the city's museum of stone relief carvings. The carvings can be divided into two kinds, one depicting a heavenly world to come, and the other the pleasures enjoyed by the occupants of the tombs while they were still alive.

OF MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Two figures which often appear on the carvings are Fu Xi and Nü Wa. Fu Xi was a legendary leader of a primitive tribe who was said to have taught men how to make fishing nets, while Nü Wa was a legendary empress said to have created the first men and to have smelted stones to fill up a hole in heaven. The two are often depicted together. On the carvings they were given human heads but the bodies of snakes with the tails of the two intertwining. The popularity of these legendary figures stemmed from the tomb occupants' worship of them, as well as a yearning to continue the pursuit of pleasure after they died.

Another popular mythological figure is Xi Wang Mu, the Goddess Mother of the West, who was said to possess a medicine that could give eternal life. The goddess on these Han carvings is adorned with hair decorations, sitting by

a small table and accompanied by a rabbit who is pounding or mixing medicine in a mortar. She lives on a remote fairy island, away from the human world, her food delivered by a black bird and with fairy animals for company. The Han people worshipped her fervently, believing her to hold their lives and their death in her hands.

OF SUN AND BEASTS

Another equally famous mythical figure is Huang Di, or the Yellow Emperor, who was said to be China's first king, uniting all the tribes. On one of the carvings, titled "Huang Di Rises to Heaven", the emperor has a human body but the head of a bear. Here we see Huang Di reaching the sun, in the middle of which is a magic bird with three legs. It has been said that this was ancient people's explanation for sunspots.

The desire to be protected, even in the nether world, can be seen from the various ferocious and auspicious creatures such as dragons, tigers, rose finches, Chinese unicorns and other mythical beasts carved on these stones. On carvings as well as on the tomb entrance knockers held in the mouths of monsters were also very popular. A particularly fierce one was called "pu shou", a monster who had a head but no body and liked to eat people so it was used to guard the door and to drive away evil.

SCENES OF DAILY LIFE

The depiction of the world of people in their daily lives as they plough fields, spin and weave cloth, enjoy



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banquets and acrobatic performances, cook, travel and hunt are recorded from the grandest ceremonies to the most mundane aspects of daily life.

One of the most common themes is the procession of horses and carriages. When a Han-dynasty government official went on an inspection tour, it was seldom a humble affair. The procession was usu-

ally preceded by soldiers both on foot and on horses, followed by beautiful carriages, each one showing the different status of the occupant. The carvings may be somewhat exaggerated, as most inspection tours depicted in carvings are equally grand.

The original music of the Han Dynasty can no longer be heard, but the



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5. This 2,000-year-old Janus resembles a modern piece of art (unearthed in Suining).

6. Knocker held in the mouth of the mythological creature, "pu shou", usually adorning tomb entrances (unearthed in Tongshan).

7. Preparation for a feast: roasting meat (above), kitchen work (middle), greeting guest (below)



scenes of dancing and playing musicians has been vividly recorded on the stones.

ACROBATICS

The Han Dynasty was an era open to foreign exchange and influences, including circuses and magic shows. On a carving unearthed in Hong Lou of Tongshan County, we can see people wrestling with each other and beasts, doing athletics, performing a masked opera, singing and dancing in costume and with masks.

Two performances were particularly unusual. One is an elephant show, where the man riding the animal teases its trunk with a wooden pole and in return the elephant twirls its trunk continuously. Another is called the rolling stone show. A bare chested, muscular man would run so hard that the five huge rocks he is drag-

ging roll along behind him. There is also a fire-eater spurting flames.

HAVING A BARBECUE

Some of the feasts of the Han people can also be seen on one of the Xuzhou relief carvings titled "Barbecuing Skewered Meat". The picture is divided into three panels: the first one showing people, horses and carriages which indicate the arrival of guests; the second one has servants drawing water from a well and washing dinner ware, and the third one roasting skewered meat. On this last panel we can see a man turning two skewers with his left hand while fanning the fire with his right hand, a scene that bears striking resemblances to the roasting of skewered mutton in Xinjiang today.

Translated by Megina Kwan
Photos by Zheng Yunfeng
Article by Wu Lihua & Xu Yiling



MARKETING

Express Mail Service

Qingdao in east China's Shandong Province opened an international mail exchange centre in November last year to meet the city's fast-growing demand for international express mail service. In its first stage, the centre will conduct express mail service business with Japan and South Korea.

Chemical Tour Woos Investors

China's chemical industry hopes to draw investors from North America to participate in its ambitious 15-year development programme starting this year.

The industry is willing to trade some of its huge market share for foreign investment. A delegation of 147-company Chinese chemical industry has sponsored an exhibition in New York, and a symposium on the development of China's chemical industry is held in Los Angeles.

The next 15 years is expected to be an important juncture in modernization and it is believed that China will enjoy unprecedented growth. To realize its goal it will make great efforts to introduce advanced and applicable foreign technology and equipment.

The industry will also promote investment incentives to boost co-operation from the United States and other countries.

EVENTS

Sino-Thai Fair

To mark the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Thai diplomatic ties a Thai-Chinese trade fair is expected to be held in Beijing from March 5th-10th. More

than 70 Thai companies will display their products at the fair which is co-sponsored by the Thai Ministry of Commerce and the Thai Chamber of Commerce.

Shanghai Showing Off

During this year Shanghai will, for the first time, display their products in 30 exhibitions to be held in over 20 countries and regions including Iraq, Argentina, Morocco, Chile and Cuba. The main purpose of participating in such shows is to explore new markets for Shanghaiese products.

BANKING & FINANCE

Citibank in Beijing

Citibank became the first United States bank with a branch in the capital when it opened in the Citic International Building in October last year. Along with the Bank of Tokyo and Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation it is among the first group of major overseas banks approved by the People's Bank of China to upgrade its representative offices in Beijing.

The new Citibank branch will primarily focus on major international business such as trade and project financing. Overseas banks are not allowed to operate local currency Renminbi business in the country. However, Citibank hopes China will allow foreign banks to do local Renminbi business in five years when the country is economically stronger and more open and when Chinese banks have become more modernized and commercialized.

Citibank already has branches in Shanghai and Shenzhen and was the first US bank to establish operations in China in 1902.

BNP Opens in Guangzhou

Banque Nationale de Paris (BNP) a leading French bank, opened its branch in Guangzhou in October last year. With branches already in Shenzhen and Tianjin, BNP was the first European bank to open a representative branch in Beijing in 1980. It has also set up the International Bank of

Paris and Shanghai, a joint venture between BNP and the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China.

Recently, the bank acted as lead manager for a group of French banks signing a contract with the State Development Bank and the Ling'ao Nuclear Power Plant where banks will provide some US\$2 billion in syndicated export credit for the power project.

China Finance Company in London

The Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, one of the largest State-owned commercial banks, opened a representative office in London at the end of last year.

This is the bank's sixth overseas venture (others having already been set up in Kazakhstan, Singapore, Tokyo and Hong Kong) but will be the bank's first organization in Western Europe. By taking advantage of the London international finance market and offering a range of financial services it expects to raise funds for China's economic construction and help enhance co-operative ties with Western European counterparts.

TRANSPORTATION

Plans for New Shipyard

Following a preliminary survey and feasibility study by the No. 9 Design and Research Institute of China's National Shipping Industry Corp., a shipyard capable of repairing ships from 100,000-150,000 deadweight tonnage (dwt) is to be built in the coastal city of Zhoushan in east China's Zhejiang Province.

Container Port

Xiamen City in southeast China's Fujian Province is expected to position itself among the country's major container ports. Figures show that up until October last year Xiamen had handled more than 250,000 containers, up 35.96 per cent on the same period in 1994, and topping the year's total.

Major Hotels in Jiangxi, Shanxi and Xinjiang

Jingdezhen, Jiangxi

Jingdezhen Hotel (Joint Venture)

景德鎮合資賓館

60 Fengjing Road, Jingdezhen, Jiangxi 333000
Tel: (0798) 225015

Jingdezhen Hotel

景德鎮飯店

60 Fengjing Road, Jingdezhen, Jiangxi 333000
Tel: (0798) 224145 Fax: (0789) 226411

Jiujiang, Jiangxi

Bailu Hotel

白鹿飯店

33 Xunyang Road, Jiujiang, Jiangxi 332000
Tel: (0792) 8222818 Fax: (0792) 8221915
Telex: 8168

240 rooms and suites

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, banquet hall, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, beauty salon

Jiujiang Hotel

九江飯店



30 Nanhu Road, Jiujiang, Jiangxi 332000
Tel: (0792) 8221186 Fax: (0792) 8221186

130 rooms and suites

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, banquet hall, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, beauty salon, sauna, swimming pool, tennis courts

Lushan Hotel

廬山賓館

446 Hexi Road, Jiujiang, Jiangxi 332900
Tel: (0792) 8282060 Fax: (0792) 8282843

Nanhu Hotel

南湖賓館

28 Nanhu Road, Jiujiang, Jiangxi 332000
Tel: (0792) 8225041

Shihua Hotel (Building No. 2) Jiujiang

資華賓館 (二號樓)

103 Xunyang Road East, Jiujiang, Jiangxi 332000
Tel: (0792) 8225611 Fax: (0792) 8223725

GM: Yang Kexian

133 rooms and suites

Located 34 km from airport, 5 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, gym, massage, baby sitting

Lushan, Jiangxi

Guling Hotel

牯嶺飯店



104 Hedong Road, Lushan, Jiangxi 330008

Tel: (0792) 8282780 Fax: (0792) 8282435

124 rooms and suites

GM: Hu Zhonghen

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall

Jinwei Guest House

金緯賓館

4 Huilong Road, Lushan, Jiangxi 332900
Tel: 8282080

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, conference rooms, karaoke, dance hall

Lulin Hotel

廬林飯店

1347 Huanhu Road, Lushan, Jiujiang, Jiangxi 332900
Tel: 8282170

Lushan Mansion

廬山大廈

506 Hexi Road, Lushan, Jiangxi 332900
Tel: (07010) 8282178

Yunzhong Hotel

雲中賓館



549 Henan Road, Lushan, Jiangxi 332900

Tel: 8282853 Fax: 8282746

GM: Sheng Yifu

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, karaoke, dance hall, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Nanchang, Jiangxi

Jiangxi Hotel

江西賓館



Baiyi Avenue, Nanchang, Jiangxi 330006

Tel: (0791) 6221131 Fax: (0791) 6224388

GM: Feng Fangeng

221 rooms and suites

Located 35 km from airport, 4 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition halls, banquet hall, dance hall, cinema, shopping arcade, business centre, beauty salon, billiards, massage, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Nanchang Hotel (North Building)

南昌賓館 (北樓)

2 Baiyi Avenue, Nanchang, Jiangxi 330003
Tel: (0791) 6271281

GM: Wang Jinkui

80 rooms and suites

Located 29 km from airport, 500 m from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, bar, conference rooms, shopping arcade

Qingshanhu Hotel

青山湖賓館

32 Fuzhou Road, Nanchang, Jiangxi 330006
Tel: (0791) 6221162 Fax: (0791) 6221447

Telex: 95007 QSH CN

GM: Duan Youzhi

250 rooms and suites

Located 35 km from airport, 2 km from railway station

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Xiangshan Hotel

象山賓館

170 Xiangshan Road North, Nanchang, Jiangxi 330008

Tel: 6772246 Fax: 6771050

Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, banquet hall, karaoke, dance hall, shopping arcade, beauty salon, sauna, massage

Yingtian, Jiangxi

Overseas Chinese Hotel

華僑飯店

21 Zhanjiang Road, Yingtian, Jiangxi 335000
Tel: (07032) 221344 Fax: (07032) 221149

GM: Shao Jianping
232 rooms and suites
Located 150 km from airport, 100 m from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, gym, massage, baby sitting, facilities for the handicapped

Taiyuan, Shanxi

Bingzhou Hotel

并州賓館



32 Yingze Street, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030001
Tel: (0351) 4042111 Fax: (0351) 4033540
GM: Liu Zhonggui
320 rooms and suites
Located 15 km from airport, 1 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, steam bath

Shanxi Grand Hotel

山西大酒店



5 Xinjian Road South, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030001
Tel: (0351) 4043901 Fax: (0351) 4043525
GM: Hu Xiren 張建平
166 rooms and suites
Located 13 km from airport, 1.5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, bowling, swimming pool, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Shanxi Sports Guest House

山西體育賓館

9 Sports Road, Dayingpan, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030012
Tel: (0351) 7072357 Fax: (0351) 7040569
156 rooms and suites
Located 12 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, karaoke, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, gym, facilities for the handicapped

Yingze Hotel

迎澤賓館

51 Yingze Street, Taiyuan, Shanxi 030025
Tel: (0351) 4043211 Fax: (0351) 4042941
GM: Tan Zhoujun
443 rooms and suites
Located 17 km from airport, 2 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, swimming pool, baby sitting, steam bath

Ürümqi, Xinjiang

Bogeda Hotel

博格達賓館

10 Guangming Road, Ürümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: (0991) 223910 Fax: (0991) 215769
GM: Li Chenglin
270 rooms and suites
Located 17 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards

Friendship Hotel

友誼賓館

62 Yan'an Road North, Ürümqi, Xinjiang 830001
Tel: (0991) 264220 Fax: (0991) 263573
GM: Aizezi Maimaitili
149 rooms and suites
Located 27 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, exhibition hall, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, gym, massage

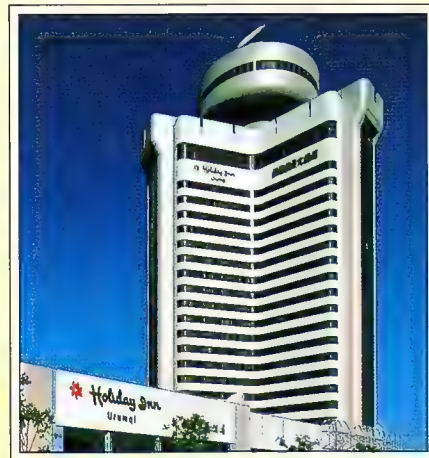
Hongshan Hotel

紅山賓館

108 Xinhua Road North, Ürümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: (0991) 216018
GM: Cui Shouliang
Opened 1971
94 rooms and suites
Located 20 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, conference rooms, beauty salon, massage

Holiday Inn

新運假日大酒店



168 Xinhua Road North, Ürümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: (0991) 218788 Fax: (0991) 217422
GM: Roland Steiner
Opened 8 May 1993

383 rooms and suites
Located 20 km from airport, 6 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, beauty salon, sauna, billiards, gym, massage, steam bath, facilities for the handicapped

Islam Grand Hotel

伊斯蘭大酒店

22 Zhongshan Road, Ürümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: (0991) 211017 Fax: (0991) 211513
GM: Zhao Shukun
77 rooms and suites
Located 17 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon

Kunlun Hotel

崑崙賓館

51 Youhao Road North, Ürümqi, Xinjiang 830000
Tel: (0991) 440411 Fax: (0991) 440213
GM: An Jinming
Opened 1959
397 rooms and suites
Located 16 km from airport, 7 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese and Western restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, baby sitting

Laiyuan Hotel

徠遠賓館

3 Jianshe Road, Ürümqi, Xinjiang 830000
Tel: (0991) 228368 Fax: (0991) 225109
GM: Wang Baoguo
68 rooms and suites
Located 15 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, shopping arcade, exhibition hall, clinic, beauty salon, billiards, massage, gym

Overseas Chinese Hotel

華僑賓館

51 Xinhua Road South, Ürümqi, Xinjiang 830001
Tel: (0991) 260793 Fax: (0991) 260622
GM: Song Qiwei
East Building opened September 1955, South Building September 1985
295 rooms and suites
Located 22 km from airport, 4 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, karaoke, shopping arcade, business centre, clinic, beauty salon, massage

Xinjiang Electric Power Guest House

新疆電力賓館

57 Minzhu Road, Ürümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: (0991) 222911 Fax: (0991) 226031
GM: Yao Haikuo
85 rooms and suites
Located 30 km from airport, 5 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurant, coffee shop, bar, conference rooms, dance hall, disco, karaoke, shopping arcade, beauty salon

Xinjiang Sports Hotel

新疆體育賓館

3 Renmin Road, Ürümqi, Xinjiang 830002
Tel: (0991) 227962 Fax: (0991) 228074
GM: Ubulhasan
134 rooms and suites
Located 26 km from airport, 8 km from railway station
Facilities: Chinese restaurants, bar, conference rooms, clinic, tennis courts, baby sitting, business centre

Famous Pavilions and Towers from Ancient China

YELLOW CRANE TOWER

Originally located on a huge rock projecting over the water on Mount Sheshan, Wuchang, Hubei Province, the tower got its name from a legend about an immortal, by the name of Zi An, who flew over the area on a crane. It was first built during the Three Kingdom Period (220-280) but was repeatedly damaged and rebuilt through history. A huge fire levelled it to ground in 1884 during the Qing Dynasty. A reconstruction was built on Mount Sheshan a kilometre from its original position by the river. Building began in 1981 and finished in 1985. The five-storey tower overlooks the misty Yangtze River and possesses a sweeping view.

Photo by Huang Keqin

Travel tips: Travel by plane or train to Wuhan, then take buses No. 10, 61, 64 or trolley buses No. 1 or No. 4.



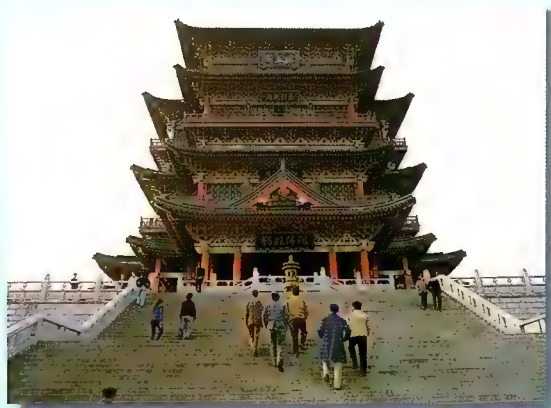
TENGWANG PAVILION

Originally at the sand bar to the west of Nanchang City, Jiangxi Province, the Tengwang (Prince Teng) Pavilion was built in 716 during the Tang Dynasty and rebuilt 28 times. It was last damaged in 1926, by the warlord Deng Ruzhuo's troops. The construction for the present building, of both Song and Tang styles, began in 1985 and was completed in 1989. It is very grand and characteristic of the periods.

In ancient times it was a favourite place for nobles to meet and send off friends, or hold banquets. The pavilion owes its fame to a famous classical writing entitled "The Preface to Tengwang Pavilion" by Wang Bo, one of the three most talented men of literature in early Tang.

Photo by Tai Chi Yin

Travel tips: Travel by plane or train to Nanchang City. Then take trolley bus No. 2.



YUEYANG TOWER

Situated at the western gate of Yueyang City, Hunan Province, it was first built in 716 during the Tang Dynasty and later remodelled by governor Teng Zijing during the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127). To commemorate the occasion, Teng Zijing invited the famous literary Fan Zhongyan to write an article, thus spreading the name of the tower afar. Throughout history it has fallen into ruin and been rebuilt. The present building was completed in 1867 during the Qing Dynasty. The three-storey Song-style tower overlooks the vast Dongting Lake. Together with the Yellow Crane Tower of Wuchang and Tengwang Pavilion of Nanchang, they have been termed the "Three Decorative Buildings of the South".

Photo by Chen Xiuquan

Travel tips: Travel by ship or train to Yueyang, then take bus No. 2.





YANYU TOWER

On the islet inside Nanhu Lake in the city of Jiaxing, Zhejiang Province, Yanyu (Mist and Rain) Tower was first built around 940 during the Five Dynasties period and repeatedly ruined and rebuilt. The present construction was built between 1862-1874 during the Qing Dynasty for the purpose of receiving the emperor on his southbound trips.

The grand, two-storey tower lies amidst a picturesque landscape. The Qing Emperor Qianlong had visited it six times and on each occasion he felt reluctant to leave. He loved the construction so much and constructed an imitation in his summer resort in Chengde, Hebei Province.

Photo by Wang Jinqiu

Travel tips: As the tower is between Shanghai and Hangzhou, train services are frequent and transportation is easy.

WANGJIANG TOWER

Southeast of the ancient city Chengdu, Sichuan Province, on the southern bank of the Jinjiang River, the Wangjiang (River Viewing) Tower was built to commemorate Xue Tao, the well-known female poet of the Tang Dynasty. The building is viewed as the symbol of Chengdu City.

Built between 1875 and 1908 during the Qing Dynasty, the 30-metre-high building has four storeys with wooden stairs inside leading to the highest floor, where one may enjoy the grand scene along the Jinjiang River.

Photo by Wang Miao

Travel tips: Travel by train or plane to Chengdu, where a bus service goes directly to Wangjianglou Park in which the building is situated.

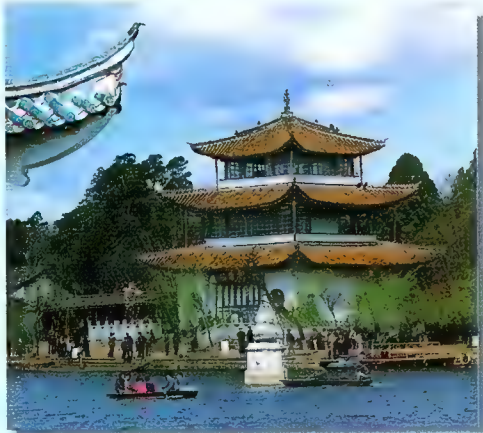


THE GRAND VIEW TOWER

Inside the Daguanlou Park two kilometres west of Kunming, Yunnan Province, on the northern bank of the Dianchi Lake, the construction was built in 1690 during the Qing Dynasty and was later destroyed in a war. The present three-storey construction was built in 1869. It possesses a sweeping view across the Dianchi Lake. A couplet by a Qing scholar Sun Ranweng at the main entrance attracts visitors' eyes, for it has as many as 180 characters, termed the "longest couplet throughout history".

Photo by Ding Feng

Travel tips: Travel by plane or train to Kunming, then take Bus No. 4 from Yuantong Zoo to Daguanlou Park by the Dianchi Lake.



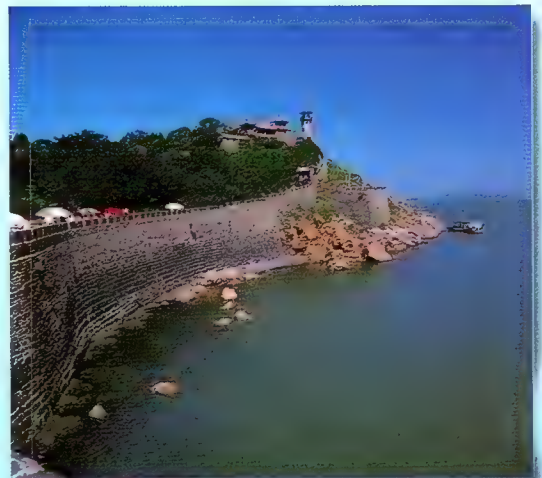
PENGLAI PAVILION

On top of Mount Danya, one kilometre north of Penglai County town in Shandong Province, the building was constructed around 1060 during the Song Dynasty on a steep cliff overlooking the Bohai Sea. The present construction was built in 1819 during the Qing Dynasty. Two-storey and of wood construction, the pavilion has 16 red columns in a circle on the first floor to support an exquisite internal veranda. Around the building are five independent ancient constructions.

The pavilion is forever shrouded in mystery. About 2,000 years ago, it is said, the First Emperor of the Qin Dynasty and later Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty made a special trip here for an elixir. The legend Eight Immortals Crossing the Sea was also reputed to have happened here. Because of this people view the place as a "fairy land". Following the stone stairs visitors arrive at the pavilion and a panoramic sea view. Spend a few moments listening to the crashing of the waves and spotting the distant islets only faintly visible in the mist. If lucky, one may see the rare spectacle of mirage.

Photo by Liu Fujun

Travel tips: Travel by plane or train to Yantai, then take a bus to Penglai County.
Translated by Li Guoqing



Healing Properties of the 48 Springs in Arxan Mountain

No.	Name of Spring	Indication	Temp. (°C)	pH	Radiation Intensity	Radon Content
0	Neuralgia	neuralgia, arthritis, headache	1.5	7.0	16.0	—
1	Headache	headache	1.5	7.0	23.0	—
2	Stomach Disease	stomach and eye diseases	9.0	7.5	42.0	43.55
3	Eye Disease	eye disease	10.5	7.6	41.0	38.95
4	Nose Disease	rhinitis and nasosinusitis	21.5	7.4	39.0	38.36
5	Mouth Disease	stomatitis, glossitis, throat inflammation, tonsillitis	25.5	7.7	37.0	31.32
6	Ear Disease	otitis media	21.0	7.6	36.0	31.83
7	Wuzang, the five internal organs (heart, liver, spleen, lungs and kidneys)	arthritis, neurosis, Wuzang disease	18.0	7.9	20.0	24.18
8	Spleen Disease (drinkable)	spleen disease	12.0	7.0	18.6	29.95
9	Heart Disease (drinkable)	heart diseases	13.5	7.3	19.3	29.12
10	Lung Disease	pulmonary tuberculosis	15.5	7.8	20.2	23.03
11	Liver Disease	liver disease	22.0	7.5	20.3	25.00
12	Kidney Disease	kidney disease	25.5	7.5	20.7	10.17
13	Migraine	migraine, vomiting	20.0	7.5	35.0	25.28
14	External Injury	external injury and its sequelae	28.5	7.8	28.0	14.36
15	Throat Disease	pharyngitis, laryngitis and tonsillitis	19.5	7.7	34.0	40.97
16	Women's Disease	gynaecological disease	20.0	7.7	9.0	13.11
17	Arthritis	arthritis	40.5	7.7	22.0	19.65
18			39.5	7.8	17.7	11.05
19			36.5	7.7	17.3	7.42
20			39.9	7.9	21.0	7.23
21	Skin Disease	skin disease and arthritis	37.0	7.6	15.5	11.09
22			39.0	7.7	13.5	14.17
23	Omnipotent (interrogation and cure method)	arthritis, neurosis	13.0	6.9	24.0	15.51
24	Dropsy	edema	12.0	7.2	28.0	11.03
25	Health	medical treatment and health care	36.0	8.0	17.4	13.60
26			39.0	8.0	17.7	10.48
27	Skin Disease	skin disease	41.0	7.7	18.0	14.44
28	Tracheitis	pulmonary tuberculosis	38.0	7.9	18.8	12.35
29	Wuti (head and four limbs)	Wuti disease	39.7	7.9	16.0	7.76
30			39.1	8.3	15.3	8.96
31	Neurosis	neurosis, intestines and stomach neurosis	34.5	7.6	15.5	6.77
32			33.6	8.1	21.0	8.96
33	Stomach Disease	stomach disease, heartburn and vomiting gastric juice	25.0	7.7	12.5	7.14
34	Arthritis	arthritis, external injury and its sequelae	48.5	7.9	18.3	14.34
35	Stomach Disease (drinkable)	stomach disease	31.0	7.7	29.0	12.33
36	Backache	lumbago, kidney disease and arthritis	24.5	8.0	20.9	12.36
37	Kidney Disease	kidney disease and arthritis	38.5	7.8	24.0	13.36
38	Rheumatism	rheumalumbago, arthritis	38.0	7.7	16.8	7.07
39			37.1	7.6	17.1	6.50
40			37.5	8.0	15.3	5.50
41	Kidney Disease	kidney disease	22.5	7.6	22.0	9.33
42	Women's Disease	gynaecological disease	20.5	7.8	18.5	10.39
43	Thoracic	thoracic, pleurisy and its sequelae	22.8	7.8	16.5	12.41
44	Headache	headache	18.7	7.8	17.9	2.94
45	Beauty	acne, freckle, tawny freckle	22.0	7.3	10.6	6.66
46	Women's Disease	metropstosis, pelvic infection, vaginitis	22.1	7.6	10.9	—
47		gynaecological disease, dysmenorrhoea, sterility	21.8	7.9	12.7	13.46

Flights to and from Nanchang

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Nanchang	2 4 6 7	07:20	09:30	CA1551
	1	09:20	11:50	GP7151
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:35	17:40	CA1511
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	19:00	21:00	MU5150
Nanchang — Beijing	1	12:20	14:55	GP7152
	2 4 6 7	15:00	17:05	CA1552
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:10	18:10	MU5149
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	18:20	20:30	CA1512
Guangzhou — Nanchang	1 5	09:35	11:00	MU5362
	1 3 5	12:30	13:35	X2 301
	3 7	14:10	15:30	MU5362
	2 4 6 7	15:40	17:05	CZ3535
	2 4 6	20:15	21:35	MU5362
Nanchang — Guangzhou	3 7	07:40	08:55	MU5361
	1 5	07:40	09:00	MU5361
	1 3 5	14:25	15:35	X2 302
	2 4 6 7	17:45	19:05	CZ3536
	2 4 6	18:30	19:40	MU5361
Kunming — Nanchang	4	15:10	17:10	3Q4561
	2 5	18:40	20:50	MU5430
Nanchang — Kunming	2 5	15:30	17:45	MU5429
	4	17:50	20:00	3Q4562
Nanjing — Nanchang	1 3	08:15	09:50	3W543
	5	08:15	09:50	3W543
Nanchang — Nanjing	1 3	14:30	16:05	3W544
	5	18:40	20:15	3W549
Shanghai — Nanchang	2 4 6 7	13:05	14:20	CA1596
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	15:50	17:00	MU5505
Nanchang — Shanghai	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:45	08:45	MU5506
	2 4 6 7	10:50	12:15	CA1595
Shantou — Nanchang	3 6	11:45	12:50	MF8352
	6	18:00	19:05	CZ8885
Nanchang — Shantou	3 6	09:50	10:55	MF8351
	6	19:40	20:55	CZ8886
Shenzhen — Nanchang	4 7	11:35	13:00	CZ3563
	1	12:00	13:35	GP7357
	2 4	17:50	19:00	4G887
	1 3 5 7	20:05	21:20	MU5354
Nanchang — Shenzhen	4 7	13:30	14:45	CZ3564
	1	14:15	15:55	GP7358
	1 3 5 7	18:00	19:25	MU5353
	2 4	19:40	20:50	4G888
Wenzhou — Nanchang	1 5	13:40	14:30	MU5574
	1 5	12:00	12:50	MU5537
Xiamen — Nanchang	1 7	07:50	08:40	MF8549
	3 6	08:10	09:00	MF8503
	1	10:20	11:10	MU5862
	2 6	14:20	15:15	MU5862
Nanchang — Xiamen	2 6	07:50	08:45	MU5861
	1	08:20	09:15	MU5861
	1 7	09:30	10:35	MF8550
	3 6	13:40	14:30	MF8504

Flights to and from Taiyuan

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Chengdu — Taiyuan	2 3 6 7	20:00	22:00	GP7402
	5	20:20	22:40	GP7404
Taiyuan — Chengdu	2 3 6 7	17:00	19:20	GP7401
	5	17:40	19:50	GP7403
Guangzhou — Taiyuan	4 7	08:45	11:30	CZ3701
	3 6	11:50	14:30	WH2372
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	16:45	19:50	GP7304
	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	07:15	10:05	GP7303
Taiyuan — Guangzhou	4 7	12:10	15:15	CZ3702
	3 6	15:20	17:50	WH2371
	5	20:00	22:10	GP7508
Taiyuan — Hangzhou	5	08:00	10:20	GP7507
Qinghuangdao — Taiyuan	6	10:40	12:00	GP7609
Taiyuan — Qinghuangdao	6	13:00	14:20	GP7610
Shanghai — Taiyuan	1 4 7	09:45	12:00	GP7522
	1 5	09:45	12:00	GP7569
	2 6	12:00	14:10	WH2572
	3	13:00	15:25	GP7514
Taiyuan — Shanghai	2 6	07:05	09:10	GP7513
	1	07:05	09:10	GP7521
	4 7	13:15	15:35	GP7570
	1 5	15:00	16:55	WH2571
Shenyang — Taiyuan	2 6	13:15	17:30	GP7602
	2 6	08:10	12:20	GP7601
Shenzhen — Taiyuan	1 4	16:25	19:35	GP7306
	4	17:30	20:40	GP7308
Taiyuan — Shenzhen	1 4	08:10	11:25	GP7305
	4	08:10	11:25	GP7307
Shijiazhuang — Taiyuan	2 5 6	08:35	09:30	GP7409
	6	08:35	12:00	GP7609
Taiyuan — Shijiazhuang	2 6	13:00	16:40	GP7610
	2 5	19:30	20:30	GP7410

Flights to and from Ulanhot

Route	Days of Week	Dep.	Arr.	Flight No.
Beijing — Ulanhot	3 6	10:00	13:20	CA1123
Ulanhot — Beijing	3 6	14:15	17:35	CA1124
Hohhot — Ulanhot	3 6	08:10	13:20	CA1123
Ulanhot — Hohhot	3 6	14:15	19:40	CA1124
Tongliao — Ulanhot	3 6	16:00	19:40	CA1124
Ulanhot — Tongliao	3 6	14:15	15:00	CA1124

(Valid to October 30, 1996)

Average Climatic Conditions in Jiangxi, Xinjiang, Yunnan and Shanxi

			Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Jiangxi	Nanchang	Temperature (°C)	5.0	6.4	10.9	17.1	21.8	25.7	29.6	29.2	24.8	19.1	13.1	7.5
		Rainfall (mm)	58.3	95.1	163.9	225.5	301.9	291.1	125.9	103.2	75.8	55.4	53.0	47.2
Xinjiang	Turpan	Temperature (°C)	-9.5	-2.1	9.3	18.9	25.7	31.0	32.7	30.4	23.3	12.6	1.8	-7.2
		Rainfall (mm)	1.5	0.3	1.4	0.4	0.5	3.3	2.3	3.0	1.0	1.1	0.4	1.4
	Urumqi	Temperature (°C)	-15.2	-12.2	0.7	10.8	18.9	23.4	25.7	23.8	17.4	8.2	-2.6	-12.0
		Rainfall (mm)	5.6	4.0	18.8	22.6	25.1	29.1	16.4	18.9	14.2	17.2	15.2	7.4
Yunnan	Kunming	Temperature (°C)	7.7	9.6	13.0	16.5	19.1	19.5	19.8	19.1	17.5	14.9	11.3	8.2
		Rainfall (mm)	11.6	11.2	15.2	21.1	93.0	183.7	212.3	202.2	119.5	85.0	38.6	13.0
Shanxi	Taiyuan	Temperature (°C)	-6.6	-3.1	3.7	11.4	17.7	21.7	23.5	21.8	16.1	9.9	2.1	-4.9
		Rainfall (mm)	3.0	6.0	16.3	23.8	30.1	52.6	118.3	103.6	64.3	30.8	13.2	3.4
	Datong	Temperature (°C)	-11.3	-7.7	-0.1	8.3	15.4	19.9	21.8	20.1	14.3	7.5	-1.4	-8.9
		Rainfall (mm)	3.0	3.9	9.9	19.3	29.1	45.1	95.1	94.1	51.2	23.7	8.1	1.5

Train Schedules

Shanghai — Nanchang — Jiujiang South Wuchang — Yingtan — Nanchang — Changsha

373 O.	371 O.	263/262 F.T.	223/222 F.T.	Train Station	No.	221/224 F.T.	264/261 F.T.	372 O.	374 O.
			15:35	Shanghai		13:05			
	16:25		—	Hangzhou		—		10:54	
	—		20:14	Hangzhou East		09:23		—	
	18:08		21:48	Zhuji		06:59		08:49	
	19:22		23:34	Yiwu		05:54		07:44	
22:17	21:00		01:17	Jinhua		04:46		06:38	20:57
00:23	22:52		03:44	Quzhou		02:59		05:03	19:07
05:22	02:55		07:18	Shangrao		00:24		02:02	16:08
08:16	04:40	17:38	10:00	Yingtan		21:55	09:01	22:53	13:31
09:24	05:23	18:33	10:44	Dongxiang		20:43	08:08	21:56	12:17
10:14	06:05	19:28	11:24	Jinxian		19:58	07:08	21:16	11:22
11:33	07:24	21:22	13:19	Nanchang		18:23	05:17	19:55	09:49
		01:50	—	Yichun		—	00:20		
		05:01	—	Zhuzhou		—	20:58		
		06:04	—	Changsha		—	19:50		
			16:02	Jiujiang South		15:26			
			19:24	Tieshan		11:57			
			21:40	Wuchang		09:40			

O. — Ordinary

F.T. — Fast through passenger train

Train Schedules

Guangzhou — Nanchang — Fuzhou — Xiamen

*386/387 O.	382/383 O.	*266/268 F.T.	Train Station	No.	*270/267 F.T.	384/381 O.	*388/385 O.
		20:10	Guangzhou		10:02		
		23:55	Shaoguan		05:56		
		06:13	Hengyang		23:59		
		08:42	Zhuzhou		21:30		
		12:13	Yichun		17:45		
17:55	20:43	17:55	Nanchang		12:36	06:55	12:22
19:19	22:17	19:19	Jinxian		11:07	05:20	11:07
20:01	23:00	20:01	Dongxiang		10:29	—	10:29
20:57	23:59	20:57	Yingtan		09:45	04:00	09:45
01:08	04:00	01:08	Shaowu		06:22	00:31	06:22
03:56	07:10	03:56	Laizhou		03:14	21:04	03:14
—	11:22	07:53	Fuzhou		22:42	16:28	—
07:18			Yong'an				23:50
10:43			Hua'an				19:41
13:42			Xiamen				16:59

* Departs on alternate days

TOURIST INFORMATION

Lake Monster

A mysterious "lake monster" is said to inhabit a lake in the Changbai Mountains. Formed by a volcanic eruption 270 years ago, Tianchi, or Heavenly Lake, in Jilin Province, has been the scene for several sightings of a large animal swimming in the lake. The monster was sighted three times the previous year, the latest one taking place on July 14, 1995 by a group of tourists. Reported descriptions vary from a dinosaur, to a giant buffalo or some just as simple as looking like a big iron pot. Subsequently, an observation post has been erected on behalf of a nature reserve protection unit and local TV crew. A reward of 10,000 yuan has been offered by the monster research society for a clear photograph of the beast!

Relax at Fenhu Lake

Located east of Wujiang City, Fenhu Lake Tourist and Vacation Zone is 50 kilometres from Hongqiao International Airport and faces Shanghai Grand View Garden. It is to be developed as both an entertainment centre and a comprehensive trade commerce base for the Pudong New Area. A comprehensive transport system is being developed in order that Shanghai, Hangzhou and Suzhou are within easy reach and a special tourism route to circle the lake is already in place. The Frobel Magic Park will contain various sections such as a Space Theatre 2000, a Special Effects Theatre and a High Technology Theatre.

Vincent Gulf Club, a holiday centre jointly invested by Britain Newera Holdings Limited and Shanghai Metallurgy Bureau will offer programmes in boating, sea-planing, para gliding and swimming and will be a place for visitors to relax.

Taijiquan Centre in Beijing

In accordance with the national fitness programme, the Huizhong Taiji Exercises Centre, invested by the Raystar Culture

Communication Company Ltd, was set up recently in Beijing. The centre, with an aim to cultivate the traditional martial arts and spread it internationally, will have Feng Zhi, the 18th successor the Chen's Family Taijiquan, as the general coach. The main clinic is the "Xinyihunyun" taijiquan - a combination of *xinyi*, *taiji* and *qigong* to exercise for a longer life. The centre is located at No. 1 Zhouzhuang District, Shibaldian, Chaoyang District, Beijing, and three branches are in the Temple of Heaven, the Working People's Culture Palace and the Workers' Stadium.

Gansu Grottoes to Open

The Yulin Grottoes in Gansu Province, which were among China's first group of cultural relics to be put under State protection, have been restored and will be opened to the public this year.

Also called the Ten Thousand Buddhas Gorge and located some 100 kilometres to the east of the world-famous Mogao Grottoes in Dunhuang, the Yulin Grottoes are composed of 41 grottoes with some 5,650 square metres of frescoes and 272 painted Buddhist sculptures from the Tang Dynasty (618-907), Five Dynasties (907-960), and Northern Song (960-1127), Yuan (1271-1368) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties.

According to experts the Yulin Grottoes were built deeper in the caves than the Mogao Grottoes and were therefore better protected from sunlight and wind-blown sand making them more colourful.

Travelling Show

An exhibition displaying the 5,000-year-old history of the Chinese civilization opened in a predominately Chinese district of Paris. On display until March 1996 are terracotta horses and warriors, bronze chariots of the Qin Dynasty (221-207 B.C.), a large celestial globe and the grand Hall of Supreme Harmony.

Tourist Cable in Hunan

Tourist cablecars have been put into operation on scenic Mount Hengshan in central China's Hunan Province. The 472-metre-high, 1,710-metre-long cableway is the largest south of the Yangtse River with the longest single span measuring 1,348 metres.

Beijing - Special Winter Packages

Beijing Mövenpick Hotel is offering their standard rooms at US\$65 per night until March 31, 1996 for a minimum of three nights. Price includes welcome drink, daily newspaper, free entry to The Splash, shuttle bus to/from the airport/downtown. Rooms must be booked in advance via Beijing Mövenpick Hotel, Xiao Tianzhu Village, Shunyi County, P.O. Box 6913, Beijing 100621, P.R. China. Tel: (86 10) 456 5588 Fax: (86 10) 456 5678, or in Hong Kong via Mövenpick Hotels International, 502 Lyndhurst Tower, 1 Lyndhurst Terrace, Central. Tel: 2815 3908 Fax: 2815 3236.

Jing Guang New World Hotel offers winter package deals until February 29, 1996. Prices include buffet-style breakfast, welcome drinks, fruit plate, daily newspaper and free admission to Catwalk nightclub. Executive rooms and suites additionally receive deluxe continental breakfast, pressing of first suit/dress, one hour free use of meeting room, tea/coffee, cocktails and canapés served nightly.

Standard room packages range from US\$135-160 per night and US\$161-448 for executive rooms/suites. Address: Jing Guang New World Hotel, Hu Jia Lou, Chao Yang Qu, Beijing 100020, P.R. China. Tel: (86 10) 501 8888 Fax: (86 10) 501 3333.

AIRLINE UPDATES

Air Macau Takes to the Skies

Air Macau, Asia's newest airline, has recently initiated flights to Beijing and Shanghai for seven round-trips per week. From last month the airline introduced three daily (Mon-Sat, one on Sun) scheduled flights between Macau and Taipei using Airbus 321.

New Airports

At a cost of US\$31.3 million the first civilian airport went into operation recently in Dali, Yunnan Province. It is located 253 kilometres from the provincial capital of Kunming.

The construction of another new airport has also begun at Haikou, capital of Hainan Province. Called Meilan Airport, it will cover 1,300 hectares with three runways, able to handle eight million passengers a year.

Twelve Holiday-makers' Retreats

A Winter Trip to Kanas Lake



Ancestral Grandfather's Temple Fair



Around this time of year thoughts turn to holidays; where to go, what to do, do I want excitement or relaxation? If you are a city-dweller the latter is probably foremost in your mind, in which case next month's issue will be invaluable. We tempt you with 12 retreats to be found in China, ranging from forest cabins by tranquil lakes, to mountain retreats to beach resorts offering watersports or just lazing on the beach sun-worshipping.

Worshippers of a different kind are the devout followers of Fu Xi, said to be the creator of the Chinese civilization. In his honour the Ancestral Grandfather's Temple Fair, held on the 15th day of the second lunar month, is the largest in China and the Flower Basket exorcist dance is performed by sprightly women aged between 70-80 years old! Lastly, a winter sleigh expedition sets out for the frozen Kanas Lake in Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and drops in, unexpectedly, on the Kanas villagers who are celebrating their Spring Festival.

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It has been 34 years since the founding of the Beijing Textiles Import and Export Corporation. To date, the corporation has opened up stable marketing channels with more than eighty countries and regions, accumulating a total export value of around 2.5 billion dollars. In 1993, the corporation joined the ranks of the 300 largest firms engaged in foreign trade and occupied the 216th place of the top 500 enterprises in China.

The corporation has over the years developed business relations with its trade partners abroad on the principle of giving service and product quality and reputation the highest priority in business. It has painstakingly developed a number of famous brand products which have won outstanding prestige in international markets. They include: the "Copper Pavilion" brand combed yarn that ranks first of its kind in the country by virtue of its excellent quality; the "Flying Angel" brand high-grade velveteen directly woven on fine ne 60s yarn; the superior "Ice-berg" brand trueran white poplin; the "Swan" brand woolen piece goods of international popularity and the "Flying Swallow" brand super cashmere overcoating.



At present, with the deepening of the structural reforms in China's foreign trade, a socialist market system striving for broader economic development, more extensive trade relations and wider markets demands us to go steadily toward the target of becoming an internationalized, genuinely business-like group enterprise amid the highly competitive world. To attain this goal, the Beijing Textiles Import and Export Corporation has set up affiliated agencies in Eastern Europe, Germany, Australia, Hong Kong and Macau, enabling us to explore and expand overseas markets. At the same time, we have cooperated with investors from Singapore to run a commercial center as a joint venture that combines international trade, recreation and services in an integral whole with multiple functions in commercial activities, we have also made investment in factories selected on merit of dependable output quality as production base of our export products.

To date, apart from textile surface materials, the corporation is steadily enlarging its variety and scope of business. It now deals with garments, cotton knitwear, woolen wear, bedding articles, tablecloths, metal fittings, etc. We also process materials supplied or imported by clients, import textile machinery and equipment and do agency business.

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